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THE TIMES

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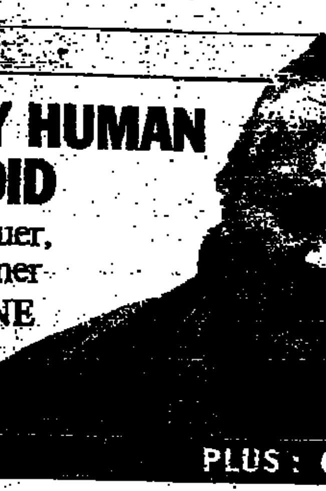

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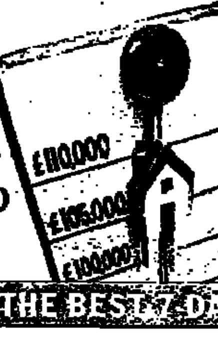

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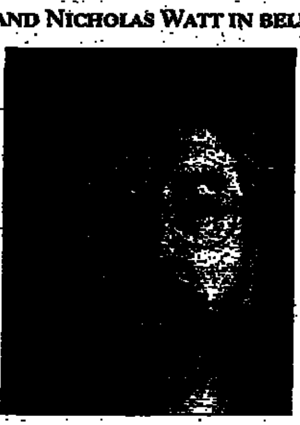
Time now for talks, says Adams

Ceasefire call to the IRA by Sinn Fein

From Martin Fletcher and Nicholas Watt in Belfast and Philip Webster



Adams: "assurances by London and Dublin"

THE IRA was last night expected to declare a ceasefire in response to a call from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president.

Mr Adams said he had called on the IRA leadership to restore the 18-month ceasefire that ended with the Docklands bomb in February 1996 because the Labour Government had removed the obstacles to serious peace talks posed by John Major's administration. He expected a swift and positive response.

An unequivocal IRA ceasefire would allow Sinn Fein to join the all-party peace negotiations set to begin on September 15, but there were serious doubts developing last night about whether those negotiations will take place.

Unionists were dismissive of the IRA move, insisting it was nothing more than a tactic to get Sinn Fein into the talks. It had come, they said, after the Government had made serious concessions to Republicans, with an assurance that the decommissioning of terrorist weapons was not needed before Sinn Fein could enter talks.

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party deputy leader, said: "Why would the IRA not call a ceasefire? They have got everything they have asked for."

The ceasefire move comes after considerable movement in the past few weeks, including telephone and written contacts between Sinn Fein and the Northern Ireland Office under Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. But after a meeting in London yesterday, Ms Mowlam and Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, said they were standing firmly behind a joint document on the decommissioning of IRA weapons that Unionist leaders have labelled unacceptable.

The Unionist parties are threatening to vote the document down on Wednesday because it offers no guarantee that decommissioning will begin early in the talks and they believe Sinn Fein wans to negotiate with "guns under the table".

In calling for a ceasefire, Mr Adams said he had received the assurances he needed that the British and Irish governments were committed to serious negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland without preconditions. Those negotiations would be completed within a stated timeframe. The decommissioning issue would not be allowed to block negotiations. No outcome would be precluded, meaning that Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom could be debated.

Mr Adams said his announcement was also based on the commitment of Bertie Ahern, the new Irish Prime Minister, to pushing for "significant and substantial change" benefiting the nationalist community in Northern Ireland.

In an aside, he said he was "confident that the mistakes that were made by the former Taoiseach, John Bruton, will not be repeated and that Sinn Fein will be accorded full equality of treatment."

Since the election Tony Blair's Government has, despite Unionist anger, gone out of its way to meet Sinn Fein's concerns. It has made clear that the decommissioning issue would be considered in parallel with, and not before, serious peace talks. It offered Sinn Fein admittance to those talks within six weeks of an unequivocal ceasefire, and an assurance that the talks would be completed by next May. It

Continued on page 2, col 6

MAX MUMBY / FNP

Prince's party: Camilla Parker Bowles arrives at the Prince of Wales's country retreat in Gloucestershire last night for her 50th birthday celebration

Champagne birthday at Highgrove

By Simon de Bruxelles

EIGHTY close friends of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles gathered at his country estate in Gloucestershire last night for a party to celebrate her 50th birthday. It was the most public of private events, trumpeted as a milestone in the couple's affair.

Mrs Parker Bowles was the first guest to arrive. Wearing a dark blue sleeveless silk dress and a glittering necklace, she turned and smiled for the cameras before being driven through the Street Farm entrance of the Prince's country retreat.

She was sitting in the passenger seat in a black Vauxhall Omega estate as the car went through the gates of Highgrove House shortly after 7 o'clock.

As other guests arrived half an hour later, they were ushered into the reception room for champagne and canapés, while a large press contingent was kept safely at arm's length outside the gates of the well-protected 350-acre estate. Dinner was served in a 120ft marquee.

Last-minute arrivals included the disco from Joffins, which provides music for the Dorchester Club, and a lorry from the Convenience Company carrying portable lavatories.

The weather for the event was perfect, if muggy, and guests were expected to work off the five-course dinner dancing to classics from the last 40 years played by an orchestra.

The guests included many friends who had known the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles since their youth. Among them was expected to be her ex-husband, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles.

The guest list included most of the couple's close circle of

Continued on page 2, col 7

Cash pours into building societies

Nearly £2 billion poured into building societies last month as speculators bet on which would be the next to convert into a bank. The head of the Building Societies Association said: "This reveals the intense pressure societies are under from carpetbaggers"...Page 25

Warm spell

As schools in England and Wales break up, forecasters said the weather would be warm and sunny next week.
Forecast, page 24

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Sotheby's ends regular London antiquity sales over 'smuggling'

By Stephen Farrell and Dalya Alberge

SOTHEBY'S is to end regular antiquities sales in London. The decision comes five months after allegations that the firm sold artefacts that had been smuggled into Britain.

Now the world's oldest auction house will hold only occasional sales in London from collections of unquestioned provenance. All other sales will go to New York.

Two of Sotheby's leading London experts, Oliver Forge, head of antiquities, and Brendan Lynch, head of the Islamic and Indian department, left the company this week in the wake of the decision.

Sotheby's move has been prompted by increasing concern among archaeologists that the £100 million international antiquities market encourages looting and the illicit excavation of religious sites in such countries as India, Italy and Egypt.

A far-reaching internal review of Sotheby's international dealings and auction-room practices was announced in February by Diana Brooks, its New York-based chief executive. Her decision came after disclosures by Peter Watson in *Sotheby's: Inside Story*, which was serialised in *The Times*.

He and investigators from the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme secretly filmed Indian dealers boasting that they smuggled artefacts removed from religious sites that later appeared in Sotheby's catalogues. There was no evidence that Sotheby's knew the source of the items.

The investigators also videotaped Roeland Kollewijn, Sotheby's Milan Old Masters expert, offering to smuggle a 19th-century portrait to London. He later resigned.

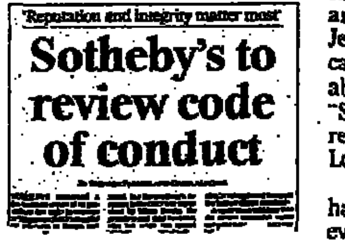
The internal review is expected to report in the autumn, but a Sotheby's spokesman confirmed last night that the withdrawal from London was part of a continuous process. He said: "It has always been Sotheby's policy to be sensitive to issues of patrimony and heritage. In response, however, to recently expressed concerns on these issues, Sotheby's is making modifications in its Indian and its Antiquities departments. We will continue to hold certain single-owner sales in London, when appropriate."

The spokesman added that Mr Lynch and Mr Forge, both with Sotheby's for more than 15 years, had "decided to leave in the light of the modifications. They left on good terms."

Christie's yesterday confirmed that it would continue to hold its June and November sales. A spokesman said: "The market is fine, and there are *still a lot of major European* collections out there."

The Sotheby's move was welcomed by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, the Cambridge archaeologist and Master of Jesus College who in February called for the auction house to abandon its antiquities sales. "Such a move will do much to restore the standing of the London market," he said.

Peter Watson said: "They have done the right thing. The evidence we had spoke for itself, and I am pleased that they have acknowledged that."



Reputation and integrity matter most

Sotheby's to review code of conduct

From *The Times* dated February 11 this year

Ousted Tory MPs still seek jobs

By Staff Reporters

ALMOST a third of the Conservative MPs who lost their seats at the general election have yet to find full-time employment.

A survey by *The Times* of the 127 defeated Tories found that 37 are still looking for work or taking time off to consider their options.

A further ten are making a precarious living from part-*time consultancies or occa*sional lecturing and media work. Six have retired.

Among several Cabinet ministers without full-time work are Michael Forsyth, Ian Lang and Jeremy Hanley.

Many former MPs did not expect to lose and had made no preparations for life outside Parliament. As several former MPs' wives said: "There is nothing more 'ex' than an ex-MP." The average age of the defeated Tories is 53.

Defeated Tories, pages 12, 13

Hamlyn gives name and £17m to South Bank

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

LONDON'S South Bank Centre is to be renamed The Paul Hamlyn Centre on the South Bank after a multi-million-pound gift from one of Britain's most generous philanthropists.

The reclusive Paul Hamlyn, who shares the fortune he made in publishing with needy arts and charitable causes, is believed to have given as much as £17 million *to the complex.*

The South Bank Centre would not confirm the figure, but described it as one of the largest-ever contributions by a private individual to an arts project in Britain.

The money will go towards the planned transformation of the decaying Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Poetry Library and Hayward Gallery.

The Centre is awaiting news within the next few weeks on its bid for lottery money from the Arts Council and National Heritage Memorial Fund for the £151 million scheme. Mr Hamlyn's donation, which meets "a significant part" of the Centre's partnership funding target, is dependent on the project receiving a lottery award.

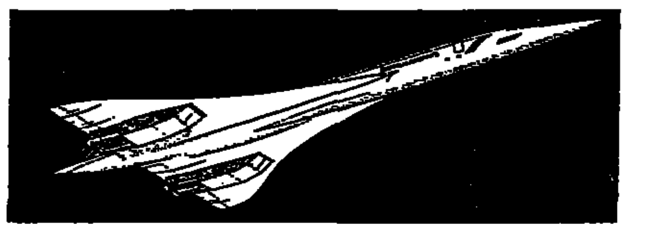
Under the plan, landscaping and new public spaces will make the most of the river setting and give a new look to a hostile, soulless concrete jungle with a maze of windswept walkways that attract graffiti artists and vandals.

The scheme is being designed by Richard Rogers and Allies and Morrison, creating one of the largest arts complexes in Europe — spanning 27 acres in which buildings constructed between 1951 and 1968 will be covered with a glass canopy.

An official announcement on the gift may be made by Downing Street where Mr Hamlyn, 71, is valued as one of the Labour Party's most generous benefactors.

Reports suggest that Mr Hamlyn, the son of Czech immigrants, boasts a £230 million fortune. It all began in the 1950s when, with £350 in his pocket, he started trading from a barrow in Camden market.

Hamlyn: started work from a barrow



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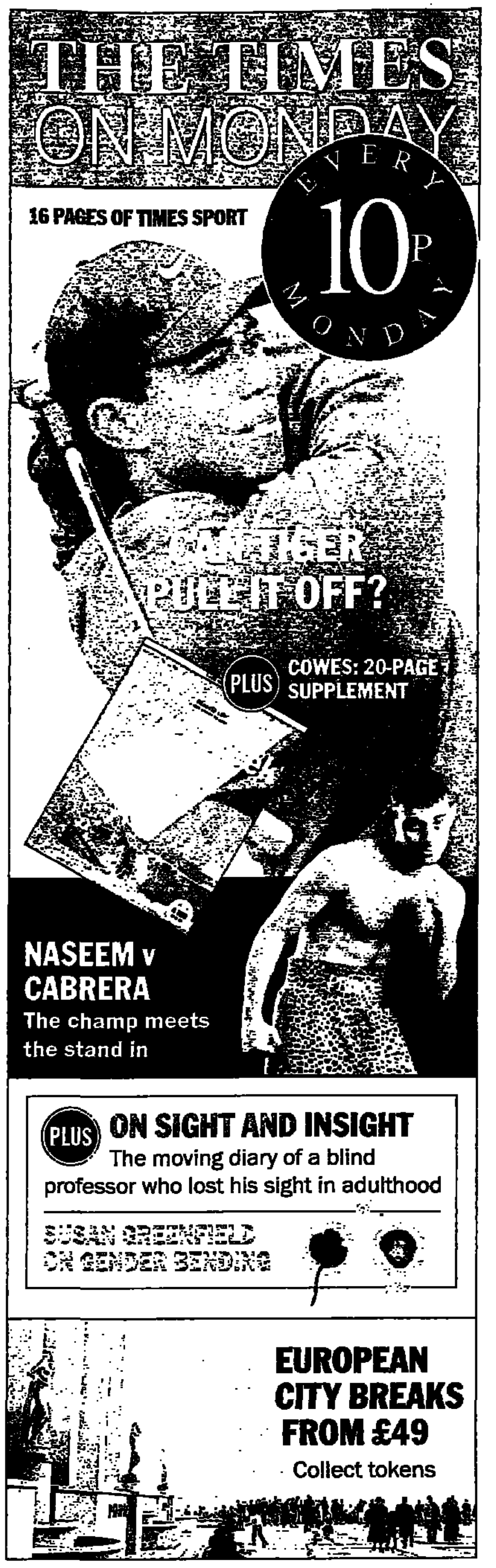
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'Let Prince Charles remarry'

Call by Labour moderniser is seen as a tacit signal from Blair

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

AN AIDE to one of Tony Blair's closest colleagues yesterday urged the Church of England to let the Prince of Wales marry Camilla Parker Bowles.

Tony Wright, a parliamentary aide to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, said that a constitutional crisis could occur if the Church tried to stand in the way of the marriage. Mr Wright, who chaired the all-party group on the constitution in the last Parliament, said yesterday that he did not think the "sky would fall in" if the Prince wanted to marry.

"Most people would rather have a happy monarch than an unhappy monarch," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

Mr Wright's intervention was seen as a tacit signal that Mr Blair had no intention of standing in the way of the Prince remarrying. Downing Street stressed that Mr Wright was talking in a personal capacity and had not cleared the interview in advance.

But Mr Wright, MP for Cannock and Burntwood, was not slapped down for speaking out of turn. Although he is not a member of Mr Blair's inner sanctum, he is a Labour moderniser. More significantly, Lord Irvine, his boss, is one of Mr Blair's closest confidants and has a key role in constitutional issues.

Downing Street officials yesterday shrugged off the remarks. "He is not speaking for the Government. It was his personal view. The Government does not have a view." Lord Irvine's office also stressed that the interview had not been cleared by him and the Lord Chancellor's views on the issue were not known.

Mr Wright, a former chairman of the all-party Commons constitutional committee, said that when he heard the "anguish" being expressed by clergymen about the Charles-Camilla relationship, "you want to tear your hair out".

He said one option was for the Church to live with the Prince's lifestyle. Their talk about the need for the Prince to be a role model was "hilarious", he added.

"Since the Church of England was created to solve Henry VIII's marriage problems four centuries ago, we've had a whole train of disreputable and dissolute monarchs and this didn't seem to produce a problem for the Church of England," he continued.

"Now suddenly we've got Charles wanting to marry Camilla and the sky's going to fall in. It's an absolute nonsense and if they [the Church] go on like this, we shall end with disestablishment." If the Prince did marry Mrs Parker Bowles, said Mr Wright, "life will continue".

Mr Wright immediately came under fire from Sir James Hill, an former Tory MP and former chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on constitutional affairs. He said that Labour had not learnt "the rudiments of being in Government yet. The Lord Chancellor, if he ever wants to make a statement, would have to do it in the pomp and circumstance of the House of Lords, but a Parliamentary Private Secretary speaking almost as a casual observer isnt quite the same. The Government shouldn't allow this. Dr Wright should leave it to his master. It rather smacks of this new cosying-up between Charles and the Labour Party.

"They must have said, 'Now's the time to get Camilla accepted by the British public, and we as a political party can see nothing wrong with that'."

Earlier, the Rev David Streeter, director of the Church Society, said that the Prince had to decide between putting his duty first and becoming King, or continuing his relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles. "We're not looking for a plaster saint, but we are looking for someone to be a role model," he said. Men did get entangled with women, "but you have to say, 'I have marriage vows which I must keep'."

Wright: advice to the Church of England

☐ The Queen yesterday opened the newest soccer ground in the Premiership League, Derby County's £18 million Pride Park Stadium.

The 30,000-capacity all-seater arena, half a mile from Derby city centre, is the club's new home after 102 years at the Baseball Ground. The Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque in front of 15,000 season-ticket holders, thousands of other fans and more than 10,000 schoolchildren.

MICHAEL POWELL

The Queen meeting members of Derby County Football Club yesterday at the opening of its new stadium

Highgrove party

Continued from page 1

friends who accept their partnership, and Mrs Parker Bowles's own small coterie of close acquaintances, most from the horse-riding county set in which she is at home.

Members of the Prince's own family were noticeably absent. Reports also suggest that there have been some refusals among the couple's own set, who are said to have felt they were being used as part of a concerted campaign to win Mrs Parker Bowles greater public acceptability.

Mrs Parker Bowles, who has had her hair cut and dyed ash blonde, had a private dinner with the Prince at Highgrove on Thursday—her birthday itself. On that occasion she wore a pink suit.

The guests were expected to sing *Happy Birthday* to Mrs Parker Bowles during the presentation of a cake crowned with 50 candles made by *Phillips*, the baker, in Tetbury, a mile and a half from Highgrove.

During the day several skips full of empty boxes from up-market food suppliers, including Fortnum and Mason, were taken away as the meal was prepared.

Royal Family notably absent from Parker Bowles guest list

By Alan Hamilton

Nor did Diana, Princess of Wales show up, **Alan Hamilton** reports

THE guest list at the Prince of Wales's birthday party for Camilla Parker Bowles at Highgrove last night was as notable for its absences as its attendance. Not that they would have been asked, but other members of the Royal Family found themselves conveniently scattered about the country, and otherwise heavily engaged.

Of all the possible invitees, Diana, Princess of Wales, was the least possible of all. She decided to prolong her holiday, savouring an extra day with her children as a guest of Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, with his family at their villa at St Tropez. She could have jetted back to London to steal the tabloid headlines, but she appears to have decided that discretion was the better part of a media joust with the other two points of her former marital triangle.

Discretion, however, did not appear to be the Princess's watchword on Thursday, the 50th anniversary of Mrs Parker Bowles' birthday, when she frolicked in the water in full view of the paparazzi, drawing admiring babble from fashion commentators that she had become an attractively well-rounded 36-year-old with no trace of the old bulimia, nervousness, or other afflictions of her past.

For the reporters and cameramen still patrolling the St Tropez waterfront, yesterday was disappointing, with no further sightings of the leopardskin swimsuit which has earned their keep for most of the week. On Thursday the Princess went nightclubbing until 4am, and lay late abed yesterday morning.

The Princess is expected to fly back to London with the princes today, when her former husband's celebration for his mistress is safely over. Spokesmen for Mr Al Fayed were smooth in their assurances that his guest had always intended to stay until today anyway, but the boys on the barge with the big lenses were not so sure.

The Princess apart, members of the royal family kept a safe distance from last night's event. The Queen, having spent the day touring Derbyshire, retreated to the safe weekend haven of Windsor Castle, while the Duke of Edinburgh visited a yacht club in Bridlington, east Yorkshire.

The Princess Royal, her brother's near neighbour in Gloucestershire, was on her way to the north of Scotland. His aunt Princess Margaret was visiting girl guides in Wales, while his great-aunt Princess Alexandra was taking the salute at the Royal Tournament.

The Duke of York was, however, in the vicinity, attending a services dinner at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire. There was no suggestion that he might look in on the Highgrove disco later. Two other impossibly unlikely invitees, the Duchess of York and Princess Michael of Kent, were reportedly on their way to separate holidays in the south of France.

Adams sees 'commitment to change'

THE full text of the statement made by Gerry Adams read:

"I have made it clear over the 18 months since the collapse of the peace process that I would only approach the IRA to restore their cessation if I was confident that their response would be positive.

This, in my view, required the reconstruction of the two pillars on which the peace process was initially constructed. Firstly, the commitment by the two Governments to inclusive peace talks. Given that the commitment by the previous British Government to inclusive negotiations were reneged on after the IRA cessation of August 1994, what was needed were assurances that inclusive and meaningful negotiations would be in place. Specifically; that the negotiations would be without pre-conditions; that the negotiations would be conducted within a stated timeframe; that the negotiations would be based on equality of treatment; that there would be no attempt to pre-determine the outcome; that no outcome was precluded; that the negotiations would have a comprehensive agenda; that the decommisioning issue would not be allowed to block negotiations; and finally, that the negotiations would be enhanced by specified confidence-building measures with a particular focus on the equality agenda and demilitarisation, including the issue of prisoners. The process of obtaining detail and clarity on these issues has been painstaking but essential.

Secondly, following intensive contacts it is clear that there is a shared commitment to significant and substantial change, to issues of equality and to demilitarisation on the part of Sinn Fein, the SDLP, the Irish Government and Irish-American opinion. In addition, I am confident that the mistakes that were made by John Bruton, the former Taoiseach, will not be repeated and that Sinn Fein will be accorded full equality of treatment.

If the political will exists there is the potential to resolve the conflict on the basis of an agreed and democratic peace settlement among all the Irish people. There is an onus on the two Governments, and in particular, on the British Government, to demonstrate the political will necessary. This also presents an historic challenge to the Unionist leaders because a political will, of necessity, involves fundamental and thorough-going political and constitutional change. There will be no return to Unionist domination. As an Irish republican party, Sinn Fein will be guided by our aim of a united Ireland. We will be seeking an end to British rule in Ireland and we will be asserting the constitutional rights of Irish nationalists. We will also be encouraging the Irish Government and others to do likewise. In any agreed political settlement the political allegiance of northern nationalists must be given expression and effect. There must, also, be immediate political action to achieve equality of treatment and a speedy demilitarisation of the entire situation, including the release of all those who have been imprisoned as a result of the conflict.

The IRA leadership assured us that they would respond without delay to our request. The Sinn Fein leadership is also prepared, if requested, to provide a detailed report and assessment to any other group."

Adams call to IRA

Continued from page 1

also maintained contact with Sinn Fein despite continuing IRA atrocities.

Ministers have also signalled to Sinn Fein that they would introduce a series of confidence-building measures including the speedy transfer of IRA prisoners back to Ireland and reform of the RUC. In a letter to Sinn Fein made public on Thursday the Government said Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would allow four unnamed IRA prisoners in British jails to finish their sentences in the Irish Republic.

Mr Adams' announcement, which was unexpected, followed a private meeting with John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, on Thursday night. The Sinn Fein leader followed an identical pattern before the IRA announced its last ceasefire in August 1994.

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Walkers have new mountains to climb

Climbers on top of a Munro in the Torridon area, admiring the view. Anyone still tackling the 277 peaks over 3000 ft must now tackle an extra eight hills after the decision to increase the number

Shirley English finds that 'Munro baggers' face an uphill task

MUNRO baggers who thought it was safe to hang up their boots after climbing all 277 mountains over 3,000 feet in Scotland are being forced to think again.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club, which compiles tables of Munros, is about to add a further eight peaks to the official list later this year. For the hardy bunch of dedicated climbers determined to "bag" all the lofty peaks in their lifetime, it means their holy grail has now moved a little further out of reach.

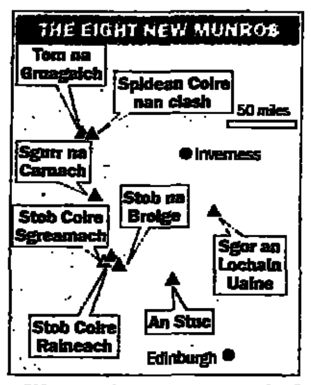
The new edition of the tables, to be published in October/November, will also remove one old Munro from the list, now not thought worthy of the title.

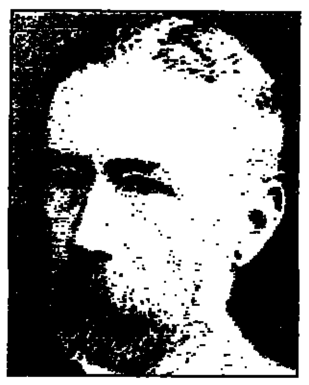
Sgor an Iubhair in the Mamores is being demoted from a peak to a mere "top" because its ascent from surrounding peaks is now deemed too small. In total there will be 284 Munros instead of 277.

The changes have nothing to do with sudden alterations in the landscape, but are the result of a whim of the mountaineering club, which has decided to alter the way it classifies the peaks and tops, or "humps".

The 1,750 Munroists, who over the past 106 years have "bagged" all the Munros, will not be affected. They will be allowed to keep their Munro tie, if male, or brooch, if female. However those close to conquering all 277 will now have eight extra peaks to climb and if they have already bagged Sgor an Iubhair, they will have wasted their breath — in effect, they will have gone up a mountain and come down a hill.

Yesterday Donald Bennet, publications manager for the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, said he hoped the alterations would be welcomed by climbers keen for a new challenge. But he admitted the list was largely subjective: "I would hope that most hill walkers and climbers will think it's great that they've got an excuse to get back out on the mountains." The move is meant to complete a process started 16 years ago when a number of tops were reclassified and promoted to Munros in their own right. Over the years the number of Munros has fluctuated. The first list of 238 peaks was compiled by Sir Hugh Munro in 1891, a Victorian businessman and founder of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, whose name became the generic term for the highest peaks. By 1921 there were 276 Munros. This shrank and grew, reaching 279 in 1953, then dropping to 276 in 1981 when the last major changes took place.





The peaks were named after pioneer Sir Hugh Munro

Metrification transformed Munros into peaks higher than 914.4 metres, a less magical figure. The number reached 277 in 1990 when the Ordnance Survey reassessed the height of a peak once thought too small.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary and the only parliamentary Munroist, completed his final peak in May 1989, 24 years after climbing his first as a 13-year-old.

He said yesterday: "I will be examining the new peaks with interest to see if I have been over them. If not I will look forward to finding the time to get back out there again." Other famous Munro-baggers included the late Labour leader John Smith, who took up walking for fitness after his heart attack in 1988. He had a map dotted with around 100 red pins, representing Munros conquered, at Westminster.

Cameron McNeish, mountain writer and broadcaster, said, said many would have to go over old ground to take in the new tops: "It all adds to the rather daft nature of Munro-bagging, but being cynical I can't help thinking that when the Munro Tables come round for reprint every five or six years it makes good commercial sense to come up with a newer list."

Sir Hugh Munro attempted to climb all the peaks dressed in a kilt and Balmoral bonnet. He bagged all but two, the Inaccessible Pinnacle on Skye and Carn Cloich-mhuilinn in the Cairngorms, which he was keeping until last. He died of pneumonia in France in 1919, aged 63, before he could tackle them.

The eight new Munros are Stob Coire Raineach (on Buachaille Etive Beag ridge, Glencoe); Stob na Broige (Buachaille Etive Mor, Glencoe); Stob Coire Sgreamach (Bidein nam Bian, Glencoe); Spidean Coire nan clash (Beinn Eighe, Wester Ross); Tom na Gruagaich (Beinn Alligin, Wester Ross); An Stuc (Ben Lawers group, Central Highlands): Sgurr na Carnach (Five Sisters of Kintail ridge): and Sgor an Lochain Uaine, or Angel's Peak (Braeriach to Cairn Toul ridge, Cairngorms).

Mayday as drink kills Russian

By A Staff Reporter

A RUSSIAN sailor died and another had to be flown ashore in a Royal Navy helicopter yesterday after they drank large quantities of industrial alcohol on their ship.

The two men fell seriously ill as the merchant ship *MV Vladimire Vysotskiy* sailed in the southern Caribbean, north of Venezuela. The Royal Navy ship *HMS Norfolk* responded to a mayday call in the early hours and a Lynx helicopter with medical staff flew to the scene.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said: "Unfortunately one of the men had already died by the time the helicopter arrived. The other man was winched onto the helicopter and flown to the sick bay of *HMS Norfolk*. He has now been transferred to a hospital in Aruba in the Dutch Antilles, where he is still seriously ill."

Alcohol is banned on the Russian ship and it appears that the two men turned to methanol, normally used as a solvent, in desperation. *HMS Norfolk* was en route from the Panama Canal to Tortola in the British Virgin islands.

Boy died after doctor cut artery

By A Staff Reporter

A TEENAGE boy died after an operation in which a surgeon accidentally cut one of his main arteries, an inquest has been told.

Mark Smith, who was studying for his GCSEs, was taken to hospital after suffering stomach pains and sickness just a month before sitting his exams. Doctors diagnosed a blockage in his small bowel and he was operated on at the East Surrey Hospital. During surgery Peter Bird, who was conducting the operation, mistakenly cut a main artery with a surgical lance.

The inquest at Chertsey, Surrey, heard how the teenager made a quick recovery and, in a matter of days, had returned to his home in Crawley, West Sussex. However, only a few days later he awoke his parents in the early hours suffering from extreme abdominal pains.

At Thursday's inquest his parents, Richard and Ann, relived the two hours in which their son's condition deteriorated until he was pronounced dead in the accident and emergency unit on May 25 this year. The inquest was told how repeated attempts to find Mark's medical notes were fruitless.

The hearing was told that Mark was taken for a series of tests but collapsed during some X-rays. His blood pressure fell and he went into cardiac arrest.

Dr Fuad Jinadu said that had he known of the surgical mishap Mark could have been operated on straight away in a bid to clamp his artery and stem the flow of blood. He was not told of the problem until after Mark's death.

Mr Bird, who originally operated on Mark, said he believed that Mark's fatal bleeding had begun on Sunday when he first experienced severe pains in his abdomen.

A post-mortem examination showed that the infected cut had begun bleeding — possibly for two days before Mark collapsed — and had then finally burst, leaving four pints of blood in the boy's abdomen. Recording a verdict of accidental death, Surrey Coroner Michael Burgess said that Mark's death had been caused due to haemorrhage.

Daughter gets life for stabbing

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN was jailed for life yesterday for stabbing her 51-year-old mother to death on the day before Mothering Sunday.

Michelle Pearce, 28, from Corby, Northamptonshire, stabbed Pat Pearce, a divorcée, more than 30 times as she lay in bed on March 16 last year. The prosecution said her motive might never be known, although Pearce was in financial difficulties and stood to benefit by £50,000 from an insurance policy on her mother's life.

She denied murder, and claimed that her mother was seen alive after the time she was alleged to have been stabbed. After the verdict, the jury was told that she also faced a second murder charge, over a former boyfriend, David Anderson, 28, in Corby in January 1990. He was found dead after a car he was sitting in caught fire in Corby. A coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death after an inquest seven years ago. Yesterday Mr Justice Eady recorded a formal verdict of not guilty on the case after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Wreck salvage team ordered to halt

AN OPERATION to salvage the wreck of an 18th-century packet ship lost off the north Cornish coast over 200 years ago was ordered to stop at midnight last night.

The order to protect the wreck of the *Hanover* was made by Tony Banks, the Culture, Media and Sport Minister, under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. On Thursday it emerged that 14 historic cannon have been brought out of the wreck, off Cligga Head, near Perranporth, by treasure hunters hoping to raise gold bullion worth up to £50 million.

Three of the two-ton cannon were raised from the sea onto a diving rig where they are wrapped in sacking to preserve them. The remainder are still under water near the rig. The team salvaging the wreck of the square-rigged Royal Mail ship, which sank in a storm in 1763, is being led by Colin Martin, 35, chairman of the Cornish salvage firm Hydrasalve.

Martin: spent ten years searching for wreck

He spent ten years hunting for the wreck and has had a team of about 25 working from an offshore dive platform for the past three weeks.

Pumps have been used to clear sand which had covered the vessel, which sank on route from Portugal to Falmouth. It was believed to be carrying gold coins then worth £60,000, but which would now worth millions.

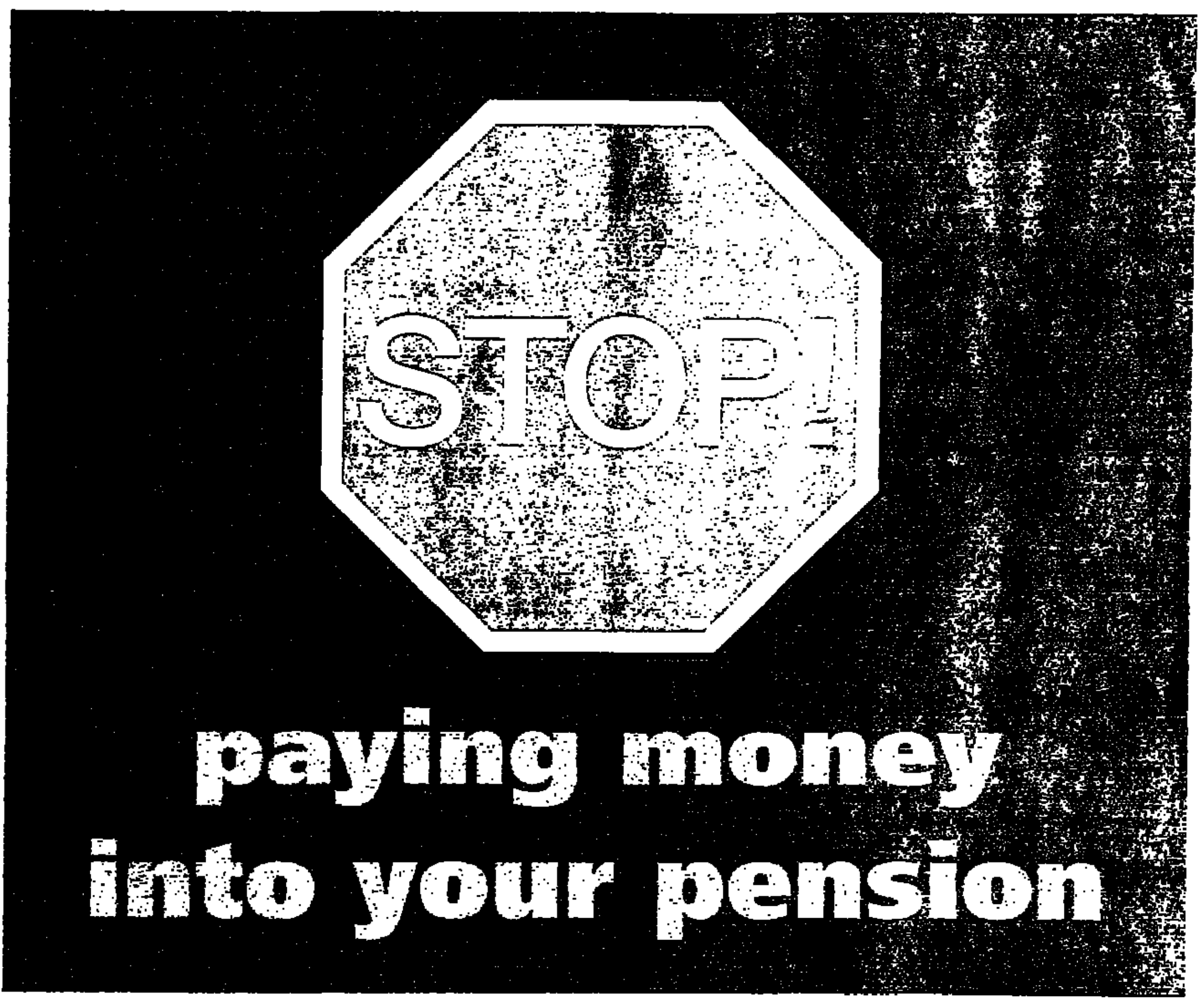
The department said yesterday the order made it an offence to interfere with the wreck, or to carry out diving or salvage operations without a licence from the Secretary of State.

"The current operations have to stop," said a spokesman, who said the department's interest was the archaeological value of the site. Mr Martin would need to apply for a licence from the Secretary of State if he wanted to continue.

Although the department had been monitoring the situation closely for some months, they had not known the precise location of the site, and diving had only recently started.

A spokesman for the Post Office, which tried unsuccessfully to have the site designated a protected wreck, said its experts did not believe there was any bullion at the site. The spokesman said: "Salvage continued for two years after the ship was wrecked, and it seems likely any treasure left on board would have been recovered." It was, though, concerned about artefacts.

The salvage firm said last night it was "considering its options with its advisers". The company was shocked at the department's decision. Its prime concern was the safety of the wreck.



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Dearing to reject Ivy League call

John O'Leary predicts proposals for intensified student recruitment

SIR RON DEARING will rule out the creation of an "Ivy League" of elite universities in his report on higher education next week. He will urge the Government to take the brakes off the recruitment of more students.

The report, to be published on Wednesday, will acknowledge concerns about the quality of some courses and recommend that research funding is concentrated on a limited number of centres of excellence. But Sir Ron's committee, which includes five vice-chancellors, has set its face against formal divisions of universities and will counsel against sudden changes in the higher education system.

Leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, have become increasingly dissatisfied with the allocation of state funding for higher education. There have been growing calls for a British equivalent of the elite group of universities in the United States.

Sir Ron is expected to recommend more selective distribution of research funds, but to argue that British universities do not lend themselves to simple categorisation. Centres of excellence outside the leading universities would be damaged by the creation of a "premier league" of research institutions.

Instead, the report will back continued diversity in the university system, with renewed expansion. The proportion of 18-year-olds going on to higher education has doubled in the past ten years, but there is a freeze on the recruitment of students.

Sir Ron will side with business leaders, who have called for the present 30 per cent of young people going into higher education to rise to at least 40 per cent. But he is expected to stipulate that many of the extra students should take shorter courses than the ubiquitous three-year degree.

He was impressed on a visit to Japan, where half of young people opt for expensive higher education, with the variety of courses and types of institution.

The committee's report will run to more than 1,000 pages and will take account of 6,000 pages of written evidence. The recommendations have been produced in 14 months, compared with more than two years taken by the Robbins Committee, which produced the last major report on higher education in the 1960s.

Many of those submitting evidence expressed concern about the quality of some degree courses. The committee will conclude that British higher education is still well respected internationally, but faces decline without a fresh injection of funds. Science and engineering are the areas of greatest concern, while some overseas courses have fallen below acceptable standards.

Tuition fees of more than £1,000 are seen as the only realistic source of sufficient money to maintain quality. But Sir Ron is expected to make a special plea for Government action to help universities over their immediate funding problems. Vice-chancellors have estimated that they face a £3 billion shortfall by the end of the decade, and fees introduced for new students only in 1999 would not close the funding gap.

Sir Ron, conscious that he will be establishing a blueprint for the next century, is anxious not to damage long-term plans for higher education with a short-term solution to the universities' difficulties.

Schools to be denied reforms, claims Dorrell

By John O'Leary

A GOVERNMENT blueprint will mean schools lose the freedom they need to improve, Stephen Dorrell, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, claimed yesterday.

In his first speech on education since taking up his new post, Mr Dorrell warned local authority leaders that the "heavy hand of Government" was about to descend on schools. Last week's White Paper would submerge schools in a tide of bureaucracy and central prescription, he said.

Speaking in Bristol at the Council of Local Education Authorities, Mr Dorrell welcomed the Government's "conversion" to Tory reforms. But he said the White Paper threatened the diversity of schools, which guaranteed parental choice.

Mr Dorrell listed a series of centralising measures, including "arbitrary restraint" on infant-class sizes, a ban on schools' use of interviews to assess applicants, and government prescription of teaching methods and homework. The Government's pledge to keep intervention to a minimum would be "honoured more in the breach than the observance", he said.

The new system of plans and targets threatened to overload teachers with administrative burdens, Mr Dorrell said. "The need to enhance the standing and professionalism of the individual teacher is a key priority facing the education service. But how is that objective conceivably served by a Government that seeks to tell teachers how to set homework?"

Mr Dorrell also said the Government had made no attempt to cost many of the proposals in the White Paper, and had left key policy details deliberately unclear.

Prize book about drugs may be filmed for schools

By A Staff Reporter

THE prize-winning novel about a teenage girl who become a heroin addict after running away from her family may be filmed for schools television.

Exclusive film and television rights to *Junk*, a 1997 Carnegie Medal winner, have been secured by Zenith North, which made *The Famous Five* programmes.

Melvin Burgess's book tells the love story of two 14-year-olds as they spiral into heroin addiction and prostitution.

Accepting his prize on Wednesday this week, Burgess hit out at "frothing parents and fundamentalists" who tried to restrict the subject matter of children's literature. "These educational anoraks froth loud enough and long enough to get whole communities to do it their way," he said.

Zenith North, which also makes ITV's *Byker Grove*, has already received expressions of interest for *Junk* from BBC Schools Drama and Channel 4. Peter Murphy, director of children's and family programming for Zenith, said that it had acquired the rights to *Junk* some time before the Carnegie Prize announcement. "We had a shrewd idea it would win."

The company won critical acclaim for its adaptation for BBC Schools Drama of *Throwaways* by Ian Strachan, another uncompromising look at homeless youngsters "Kids deserve a wide diet. It is how you present material — we did it with a lot of integrity and got a lot of positive reaction, and we will do this the same way," Mr Murphy said.

But whoever became involved in co-production, *Junk* would not be scheduled for traditional children's viewing, he said. *Junk* was likely to be shown in schools in a learning context, he added.

MICHAEL SCATES

Linda Watson, left, and her daughter, Amanda London-Williams, who have been remanded in custody

Pair remanded over husband's killing

THE wife and stepdaughter of Richard Watson, a millionaire businessman, spent last night on remand in custody charged with his murder. The pair, who had sat tearfully in court, were refused bail after a three-hour hearing in front of Haywards Heath magistrates.

Friends and family of Linda Watson, 43, and her daughter Amanda London-Williams, 22, packed the court for the hearing. The two, now of Lingfield in Surrey, are alleged to have been concerned with an unknown third person in the shooting of Richard Watson, 55, a computer magnate, last December. When Mrs Watson was asked if she understood the charge she replied: "I hear what you are saying but I don't understand the allegation."

Mr Watson was shot in the neck and chest on the driveway of his luxury farmhouse in East Grinstead, West Sussex, as he stepped from his sports car.

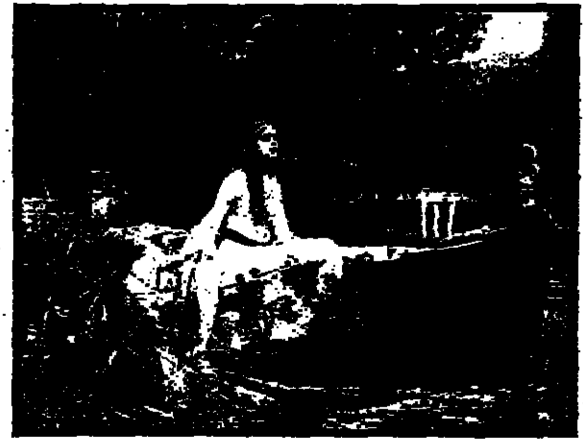
Mrs Watson, a former model, smiled and Miss London-Williams, a ballet teacher, blew a kiss as friends shouted "We love you" before the pair climbed into a police van. Inside the court Miss London-Williams wiped away tears and clasped a teddy bear as the charge against her and her mother was read out. Her mother stared straight ahead for most of the hearing, occasionally inquiring if her daughter was all right.

When the pair were remanded in custody there was a gasp from people sitting in the public gallery.

After the hearing Linda's brother, Alexander Millar, 54, who runs a window-cleaning company in Christchurch, Dorset, said: "My sister had nothing to do with it. Both of them could not kill anyone. They could not hurt a fly. My faith in the police has gone. I have no confidence in them at all."

READER OFFER THE TIMES

Exclusive private view at the Tate



Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive party, on Tuesday, July 22, to celebrate the Tate Gallery's 100th birthday.

Tate 100 Tate Gallery Centenary 1897–1997

The entire gallery will be open and works on show include special centenary displays, the Turner collection and the current exhibition of Ellsworth Kelly's works. The party is from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

You will be able to see a selection of 100 works of special interest, two rooms of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite paintings and Henry Tate's Gift, which tells the fascinating story of the gallery's foundation, with a display of works from the original collection. Among these originals you will see the beautiful oil painting *The Lady of Shalott* (above) by artist John William Waterhouse.

The current major exhibition at the Tate focuses on the work of the leading American painter Ellsworth Kelly whose observations of the real world are transformed into abstact works of the greatest possible purity of colour, line and form.

To book your birthday invitation, call First Call on 0171-420 0000. Tickets, which cost £16.75 per person, include canapés and two glasses of wine.

CHANGING TIMES

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Strong pound sends Britons flocking to sun

Holiday firms are celebrating big sales this summer, reports Harvey Elliott

THE peak holiday season officially begins today with an estimated 300,000 package holidaymakers expected to fly out of Britain over the weekend. Almost as many independent travellers will head south both over and under the Channel.

A combination of a strong pound, building society windfalls and poor weather at home has produced an unprecedented race to get away as soon as the school term ends. Almost all package holidays for the next two months have been sold with Spain and the Balearic islands again the most popular choices.

Anyone who has yet to decide where to go this summer will find little left. Demand is such that one company, Airtours, plans to impose a £20 surcharge per person on any holiday left unsold in August.

Steve Endacott, Airtours sales and commercial director, said: "For the second year running tour operators look certain to run out of peak season holidays and the message is book it or lose it."

An additional two million Britons will visit France this year. With the pound worth within a few centimes of ten francs and the centre of Paris three hours away by train, France has become the fashionable destination. Pascal Saint-Père, director of the French Government Tourist Office, said that there had already been an increase of at least 20 per cent in the number of British visitors, and many tour operators claimed twice as many customers as last year.

"We are back to the 1991 level," M Saint-Père said. "This year we will see the return of the two million who stayed away when the franc was under eight to the pound. With prices stable the difference the strong pound has made in real spending power compared with last year is enormous."

Le Shuttle is competing hard for cross-Channel car traffic. It expects to have half the Dover to Calais market by the end of the year.

Gites are also back in favour after a slump in interest from the British. Brittany Ferries which sells 1,300 gite holidays claims that sales are up by 71 per cent on last year. Xavier Schouller, general manager of Brittany Ferries Holidays, said: "This success answers all the gloomy reports of last year that the gite was dead as a holiday concept."

Those heading to the South of France, however, are likely to find high winds and sudden storms while much of Spain will have rain, according to the London Weather Centre.

Gatwick, Britain's biggest holiday airport, expects to see about 108,000 passengers pass through today and more than 112,000 on Sunday. "We're handling about 40,000 more than during the same weekend last year," a spokeswoman said.

At least 10 per cent of British Airways flights will still be disrupted because of the lingering effects of last week's cabin crew strike. Services should be back to normal by Monday.

In Britain, meanwhile it will be a dry and sunny weekend but the bad weather is forecast to return by Thursday.

Many roadworks have been suspended to try to prevent the worst of the jams but the AA still predicted trouble.

"The first weekend of school summer holidays is always extremely busy" said a spokesman. The good news for those left behind at work was that at least the roads would be clearer with the school term ended.

ALBAN DONOHOE

A collection of junk: part of the prize-winning exhibit that was described by an admirer as "a celebration of the activity of people"

Artist cleans up with pile of junk

Takahashi: explanation is complicated, she said

IT LOOKS like the inside of some suburban garages. In fact, it is a work of art. The difference is that, while the person who leaves this kind of mess at home might risk being nagged to clean it up, the artist won a £5,000 prize.

Tomoko Takahashi, 31, went round an art college that is hosting Britain's largest annual exhibition of contemporary art, and piled two rooms with junk and scrap she found. She gave it the title: *The Painting Storage Department and Left Overs from the Painting Department.*

Her work, which took seven days, includes paint-splattered old desks, lockers, planks of wood, and hundreds of cigarette butts. It won first prize against 36 other entrants in the EAST exhibition, part-funded by the Arts Council of England and the Henry Moore Foundation, at the Norwich School of Art and Design and the Sainsbury Centre at the University of East Anglia.

The Japanese artist said: "I wanted to amplify the fact that this was not a gallery, it was an art school. I wanted to show the things that are always taken away before an exhibition. I was interested in colour, and the furniture has something to do with colour abstraction.

"It is a bit complicated to explain. It shows everybody's crap. I really wanted to show the presence of many people, although all the cigarette butts come from me," said the 20-a-day smoker, who lives in Islington, north London, and studied at Goldsmiths and the Slade.

One cigarette butt is glued one to the heel of an upturned old shoe. There are also stacks of plastic chairs, desks, old nails strewn on the floor, scraps of wallpaper in a cupboard, a broken ruler and paint pots.

Lynda Morris, the Norwich gallery's curator, said: "It is first and foremost about people. It is a celebration of the activity of people."

Lineker ad given crisp reprimand

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

GARY LINEKER's new crisps advertisement was yesterday ruled too raunchy for daytime television.

The Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre said the 30-second film, which features the Spice Girls, was too suggestive and not suitable to be seen by children.

The commercial will now be screened only in the evenings. A ten-second expurgated version will be made for daytime viewers.

The centre, which vets commercials before they go on air, objected to the dialogue. Lineker is shown walking past the five Spice Girls in a nightclub. Each tries to tempt the former football star with phrases such as "Have you scored recently?".

That remark and Scary Spice Mel B's "Wanna play ball?" were considered to have overstepped the mark.

Continental soot spoils country air

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

DANGEROUS levels of tiny flecks of soot and dust linked to heart attacks and breathing difficulties are being blown to Britain from the Continent, scientists say. The discovery follows findings that country air is sometimes almost as polluted as city air.

The research indicates that expensive plans to reduce such pollution in cities by cracking down on diesel vehicles may have limited value unless action is taken by other European countries.

The findings, published in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*, have come from Stephen Dorling of the University of East Anglia in Norwich and Andrew King of IMC Consulting in Burton-on-Trent. The researchers looked concentrations of particles measured at monitoring stations in cities and the countryside during two pollution incidents last year, between January 19 and February 4, and between March 10 and 25. During the second incident, concentrations of particles in London were 61 microgramme per cubic metre, but levels in rural Kent were almost as high at 52 microgrammes.

If the pollution had been caused by city sources, there should have been a much greater discrepancy between the city and countryside monitoring sites. The team, funded by the Department of the Environment, found that the pollution coincided with "winds emanating from mainland Europe".

John Steadman of AEA Technology, which runs the National Environmental Technology Centre at the Culham Laboratories, found that during the March incident in 1996, rural monitoring sites in Essex and Nottinghamshire broke the health limit for between ten and 13 days. The breaches in city sites were between ten and 15 days.

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Police fail to find missing boy, 9

By Shirley English

A SEARCH was continuing last night for a nine-year-old Aberdeen boy missing since Thursday lunchtime. Scott Simpson, of Powis Circle, Aberdeen, was last seen at shops near his home. Earlier he had been seen near a playing field chatting to a "weird man".

He had left home at lunchtime to play with friends. When he had not returned by 9.45pm his parents started searching for him before calling police. More than 70 police officers and Aberdeen mountain rescue team joined local volunteers to comb parks and waste ground in the area and conduct house-to-house inquiries yesterday. Police divers were searching the River Don not far from his home last night.

Maureen Brown, Grampian Police inspector, said Scott had been sighted alone near local shops three hours after he had been seen speaking to a man in the park where he had been playing football. "We are concerned for him because he is aged 9. He might turn up. It is possible that he might have crept in somewhere to sleep," she said.

Police said the search would continue until dark and resume at first light if Scott had still not returned home. Scott's parents, Patsy, 32 and Dennis, 36, were last night desperately waiting to here from him. But tearful Mrs Simpson added: "He is a happy little boy and very sensitive. He would be very friendly to strangers and I am worried he might have gone away with someone."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
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The designer who made a fortune from bad taste — in Style

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Blair stakes his authority on Welsh plebiscite

Labour anxious that plan for assembly may be rejected by voters, reports Valerie Elliott

IAN HODGSON/REUTERS

Tony Blair at the Llancaiach Fawr heritage centre yesterday, where he held a questions-and-answers forum

THE people of Wales were treated to a double act yesterday. Tony Blair had come to the Principality to stake his authority on the campaign for a Welsh assembly. But it was also an occasion for Mr Blair and Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, to put on a united front and enthuse the Welsh nation that an assembly would give them "a strong voice".

The venue was straight from central casting — Llancaiach Fawr Manor — on Mr Davies's home ground in his South Wales constituency of Caerphilly. In the summer of 1645 Charles I had come to the house to drum up support for the royalist cause.

The irony of the situation was not lost on the Prime Minister, who joked with an audience of more than 200, saying: "We all know what happened to Charles I."

There were, however, no walk-on roles for the die-hards in the Welsh Labour Party who have declared their scepticism to devolution. Mr Blair's whistle-stop tour to Newport, Caerphilly and Cardiff also avoided confrontation with the "devo-sceptics". Instead, Mr Blair mounted a robust defence of a Welsh assembly, and urged the people to "vote yes" in the referendum on September 18.

It was clear that some people would have preferred Mr Blair's visit after the plans had been published in a White Paper next Tuesday. But the Prime Minister looks set to return a number of times to Wales to lead the campaign.

Yesterday, he set out a vision that an assembly would bring Government closer to the people and rid Wales of its present government-by-quango — there are about 120 such bodies. "The days of big government are over. The whole way the world is going is to greater decentralisation. If I was in Wales, I would vote for it. Wales has £7 billion cash every year, and the people will have a say on how it is spent."

Mr Blair also suggested that an assembly would allow people influence over areas that at present were not the responsibility of the Welsh Office, such as law and order. However, the visit from Mr Blair demonstrated the nervousness in the Government that the Welsh people might repeat the vote of 1979 and reject devolution. Their fears have been prompted also by apparent apathy — a poll for the *Western Mail* in Cardiff showed that 44 per cent were still undecided. There was also concern that there would be a low turn-out in the referendum while ministers are anxious to ensure convincing endorsement.

A handful of Welsh Labour MPs have also indicated some anxiety. Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, is a keen constitutionist, and has long been an opponent of devolution. Others, while not wholly hostile, are devo-sceptic. Denzil Davies, Llanelli; Edward Rowlands, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney; and Sir Raymond Powell, Ogmore; are opposed to the use of proportional representation in elections to the assembly. While Alan Rodgers, MP for Rhondda, believes that local government could be undermined by an assembly.

Their concerns have also been fuelled by recent disclosures that Wales's quango state may not be fully dismantled. It seems there are a number of bodies set up by royal charter that would prove difficult to unwind.

It was clear, however, from the jubilant reception for Mr Blair yesterday that the people of Wales want their share of attention from the new government.

☐ An official launch for the "vote no" campaign yesterday attracted just three people. Robert Hodge, 42, a Cardiff businessman, and son of financier and Jersey tax exile, Sir Julian Hodge, has agreed to act as figurehead for the campaign. His father has pledged financial support.

Ted Rowlands, page 20

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Redwood renews call for minister to resign

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

Lord Simon: has £2m shareholding in BP

THE Tory leadership last night renewed its call for Lord Simon of Highbury, the former chairman of BP, to resign from the Government after claiming that as minister responsible for the single market he is handling issues that affect the company, in which he has a £2 million shareholding.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, wrote to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, asking him to investigate the alleged conflict of interest between Lord Simon's role and the single market "action plan" that contains many items of relevance to BP.

He focused on the establishment of a common European Union energy tax, and pointed out that natural gas would be excluded from it. BP was a large producer of natural gas and he could not see how Lord Simon could be involved in discussions about the matter, Mr Redwood said.

Other matters covered by the plan included the liberalisation of the gas market, the elimination of distortion in the taxation of capital income, and rules to alleviate the burden of compliance with anti-trust rules.

Sir Robin has already ruled that there is no conflict of interest in Lord Simon retaining his shares. But Mr Redwood, backed by William Hague, is determined to continue the campaign against the Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, who was first attacked for not declaring his holding in the Lords' Register of Interests.

Mr Redwood last night said he could not see how a substantial shareholder in BP could represent the UK in the single-market negotiations. Matters came up in formal and informal meetings and so many items presented an actual or apparent conflict of interest for him as a BP shareholder. He asked what benefit BP would obtain from the proposed tax changes to energy and capital income.

Labour hit back last night, saying that Mr Redwood's attack confirmed the Tories were anti-business. "Lord Simon is a businessman of international standing. After the election he could have continued his career, with his huge earning capacity, but instead has chosen to give up his earnings and serve the British people at no cost to them," Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, said.

Polling time-sheets upset Tory hopefuls

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

POTENTIAL Tory candidates are protesting at having to fill out time sheets to show they have spent at least six hours campaigning in the Uxbridge by-election.

More than 100 would-be parliamentary candidates have been sent the forms, which they have been told to return to Conservative Central Office if they help in Uxbridge.

Yesterday William Hague, the Tory leader, was forced to defend the exercise, seen by some as an attempt to emulate Tony Blair's control of the Labour Party. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, challenged Mr Hague over his "bully-boy tactics". Mr Hague said on a visit to Uxbridge that there was nothing new about the procedure, which had been used in one or two by-elections to encourage candidates to help.

Mr Hague denied that would-be candidates would be rejected if they did not go to Uxbridge, but he conceded that the information would be kept on record. "We need to know of course who supported us in a particular campaign. There is nothing new about that."

The Uxbridge by-election, to be held on July 31, was caused by the death of the sitting MP, Michael Shersby, who won the seat by a majority of 724 votes in May.

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Woman faces jail threat for feeding birds

Neighbours protest at noise and nuisance as rooks, pigeons and starlings descend on homes

Barbara Simpson

A PENSIONER who attracts thousands of birds to her home by smothering her garden with food was warned yesterday that she could go to prison.

A council had become so exasperated with Barbara Simpson it had asked a judge to jail her for breaking an injunction forbidding her from feeding the birds at her home in the village of Preston, near Weymouth, Dorset.

Mrs Simpson, 60, agreed yesterday at Winchester Crown Court not to put out any bird seed, nuts, cheese or other scraps on her lawns or surrounding pavement until her case is heard. But Mr Justice Kennedy allowed Mrs Simpson to continue feeding her 30 doves from a bird table — despite being told the table measured 24 sq ft.

Neighbours had complained that Mrs Simpson spent £100 a week on assorted food for the birds. Rooks, pigeons and starlings perched on neighbouring houses throughout the day, causing noise and nuisance, waiting for Mrs Simpson to feed them. Environmental health officers claimed the food was sometimes strewn 6in deep.

Mrs Simpson who is married to Robert, a retired newsagent, told the judge that she had not been present when the injunction was granted in December last year. Trevor Ward, representing Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, said Mrs Simpson's previous solicitor asked to be released from the case a month ago.

Mr Justice Kennedy said he did not think it right to proceed with an application to commit someone to prison who was not represented.

He said he would adjourn the case but only on condition that Mrs Simpson gave an undertaking not to feed the birds in the same terms as the injunction.

He told Mrs Simpson the birds could manage without her: "They will be able to find enough in July and August without any help from you."

Outside the court Mrs Simpson said: "The birds are my children and I would be prepared to go to prison if they stopped me feeding them."

She began feeding the birds 15 years ago, when a sick baby blackbird landed on her doorstep. Since then she has begun emptying bags of cheese and nuts on to her front lawn and the path each day.

Vera Marshall, a neighbour in the seaside village, said: "It's been terrible. It smells like a chicken run and when we complain she just tells us not to be unkind. It begins at 5am when all the rooks start cawing away and waking us up. Then we get hundreds of other birds sitting on our roofs waiting for her to come out. How would you like 200 pigeons sitting on your roof? We've got rats in the area now."

"I've lived here for seven years and she's been doing this ever since I arrived. We all go outside and try and clap the birds away which works temporarily but then they're back after two minutes.

"The council have tried to clear up the mess but as soon as they leave she comes out and pours more food out."

Young robbers are jailed for steaming spree

By Lin Jenkins

A ROBBERY spree by a "steaming" gang that included two schoolboys ended in jail yesterday. Police believe they were responsible for a string of robberies on building societies across southern England.

They were sentenced yesterday for a raid on the Alliance and Leicester in Salisbury. Having reconnoitred their target, one acted as look-out, another stayed in the car while two pulled scarves across their faces, ran into the shop, leapt over the counter without stopping and rifled the tills, taking £3,913 before running off and escaping in the hired red Escort XR3i.

As they returned from the robbery in May last year they attacked a London mini-cab driver when frustrated at being unable to pass his car in a narrow road in Fulham. They hit him with bottles and a chair. The victim spent five days in hospital and required 15 stitches to head wounds.

Two weeks earlier, two of the gang, Jerome Bailey, now 15, and Dennis Rose, 21, took part in a similar attack on the Abbey National in Andover, Hampshire. Again they burst in at speed, their faces obscured, leapt over the counter and emptied three tills of £6,140 before the staff could activate their counter protection shields, lock the doors or summon help.

Bailey, of Clapham, south London, admitted the robberies and was given five years' youth detention for the Andover raid and six years for the Salisbury raid to run concurrently. He was given a further 18 months to run consecutively for the assault occasioning grievous bodily harm on the mini-cab driver.

Rose, also of Clapham, received three years and four years respectively, and 18 months to run consecutively for the assault. David Robinson, 22, and Adrian Martin, 19, both of Clapham, were jailed for six years for the Salisbury robbery and given a further nine months to run concurrently after pleading guilty to affray in connection with the attack on the minicab driver, on Ahmed Waberi.

Relatives of the accused gasped in surprise at the severity of the sentences, and Rose's mother collapsed and had to be helped from the court. Judge Timothy Pontius, sentencing them at Knightsbridge Crown Court sitting at the Borough, south London, said: "Witnesses speak of their feelings of shock and fear."

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Guy Ferguson, of Fulham police, who traced the gang and also recaptured Bailey after chasing him a quarter of a mile when he escaped from the dock at West London magistrates court earlier this year, said he was "very satisfied" with the sentences.

SIMON WALKER

Simon Lupini, the Proms co-ordinator, gaining inspiration yesterday from a bust of Sir Henry Wood, founder of the Promenade Concerts

Biggest Proms opens with first night sell-out

THE biggest BBC Proms concert season opened last night with a traditional sell-out performance (Damian Whitworth writes). Hundreds of singers and players were as tightly packed into the Albert Hall as the promenaders for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, by Bernard Haitink.

The 103rd season of Henry Wood Proms will stage 73 concerts — one more than last year. Alongside classical performances the music of John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Frank Zappa will be heard.

The King's Singers will premiere the new arrangements of *Penny Lane*, *Eleanor Rigby*, *I'll Follow the Sun* and *Honey Pie* on July 31 at a late-night concert. Excerpts from Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* can be heard tomorrow.

Brahms, who died 100 years ago, is one of three composers whose anniversaries will be marked. The others are Schubert, who was born in 1797, and Mendelssohn, who died in 1847.

Leonora Thomson, spokeswoman for the Proms, said: "As is usual, seating for the first night was a sell-out, but sales are healthy for the whole series. Twenty per cent of the concerts have no seat tickets left, including the last night, but it is always possible to turn up and prom on the night."

The Proms and the Victoria and Albert Museum have joined forces to present this year's Proms Chamber Music, to be held every Monday lunchtime at the museum. Nicholas Kenyon, the Proms director, said: "I hope there is a musical diet of extraordinary richness and variety."

A 70th birthday celebration concert will be held for John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, the first couple of jazz, and there will be a premiere of the new Dankworth piece. The Proms runs until Saturday, September 13.

Murder police get extra time with suspect

By Joanna Bale

DETECTIVES hunting the killer of Lin and Megan Russell were yesterday granted an extra 36 hours to question a man arrested in connection with the murders.

The unnamed suspect, in his 30s, was held in the Medway area of Kent on Thursday and taken to Chatham police station for questioning. Detectives were granted a 12-hour extension by a police superintendent yesterday morning, then a further 24 hours by a magistrate. Police were last night expected to apply for a further 36 hours. After a second extension of 24 hours, they must charge or release him.

The arrest follows an appeal last week on BBC1's *Crimewatch UK* on the first anniversary of the murders. It prompted more than 1,000 calls from the public and the man held was one of several new names put forward.

Police have asked him to provide a sample of blood and hair for a DNA examination. Detectives have a tiny hair, believed to be the killer's, found at the murder scene. Officers have also been searching the man's home.

Mrs Russell, 45, and her daughter Megan, 6, were murdered as they walked along a quiet bridalway at Goodnestone near Canterbury by a man wielding a hammer. Mrs Russell's daughter Josie, now 10, survived the attack.

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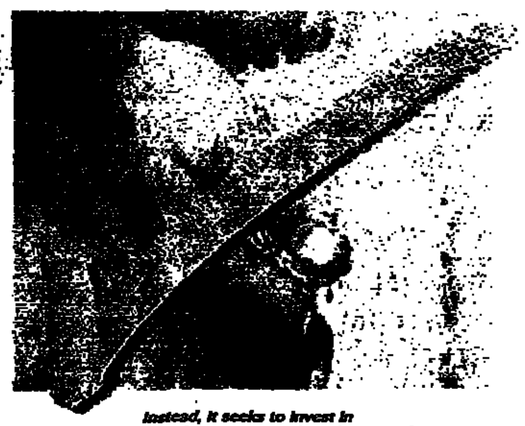

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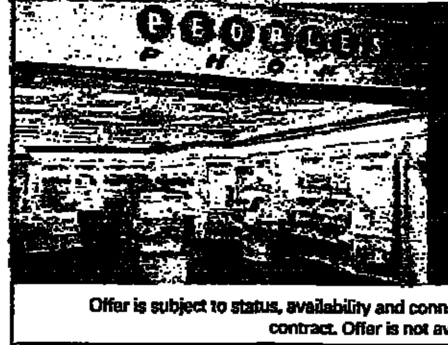

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Extension costs couple their home

SOUTH WEST NEWS SERVICE

John and Patricia Fowler with their children Nathan, Courtenay and Rana, whose original claim for damages has cost Margaret and Tom Batten, right, their house after a series of court hearings

Simon de Bruxelles reports on how £250 damages built up to £24,000 in legal fees

AN EXTENSION should have given Tom and Margaret Batten the house they always wanted. Instead they are having to sell their home to foot a legal bill after a dispute with neighbours over the work.

The Battens spent £25,000 adding a bathroom and fourth bedroom to the £100,000 house in Stoke Gifford, near Bristol. They agreed to pay John Fowler and his wife, Patricia, £600 compensation after builders damaged a path and a fence between their two houses. But after a series of hearings at which they tried to reduce their costs, they have found themselves liable for a legal bill of £24,000 — 40 times greater than the original compensation.

Mrs Batten, 57, said yesterday: "Our trust in the law has completely gone — the lawyers are the only ones to win. We just wanted to improve the house and now we have to sell it."

The dispute began in 1994 when the Battens were given permission to build the two-storey extension. The Fowlers objected after the damage to their property, and their solicitor sent more than 40 letters in an effort to stop nuisance on their land. Eventually the Fowlers took the Battens to the High Court in Bristol claiming that builders had trespassed after Mr Fowler was hit in the chest by brick chippings and scaffolding came within a few feet of his daughter's bedroom.

A judge agreed that the Battens were guilty of technical trespass but work was allowed to continue with a High Court injunction against further trespass or nuisance. Damage to the Fowlers' property was estimated at £252 but the Battens offered to pay £600 to make up for any nuisance.

Although the award itself was modest, the costs began to escalate when barristers were brought in to deal with the Battens' appeal for the case to be dealt with in the County rather than the High Court. After a series of hearings, the judge ruled against the Battens and awarded both sides' costs against them: £9,000 for their own lawyer and £15,000 for the Fowlers'. Mr Batten, 57, a security guard, said: "We cannot afford to pay so we have no choice but to sell the house. This case should have gone to arbitration or at worst to county court. The damage was very minor and we have always said we would pay to put it right but the amount of costs is just ridiculous." Mrs Batten added: "This has destroyed us."

Mr Fowler, 43, a senior credit and risk manager with a bank in Bristol, who has three teenage children, said: "I wouldn't necessarily justify the legal costs but barristers are expensive. They are highly educated and articulate professionals with support staff to pay. I had no guarantee of getting my money back and as far as I am concerned my lawyers have justified their fees. I agree the lawyers are the winners but why should I be out of pocket when I was wronged?"

Of the Battens, who live in the house with their daughter, Eve, 19, Mr Fowler said: "I shall be glad to see the back of them and I expect they feel the same way about us. The building work was endangering my family, I was hit in the chest by a flying stone chip and I had children to think of. The incidents on their own may seem trivial but they were a nuisance. We chose the High Court because we wanted the building work stopped quickly and our solicitor said that was the best route."

The Bristol solicitors Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, which represented the Fowlers, said yesterday: "The substantial legal costs incurred were an unfortunate but inevitable result of Mr and Mrs Batten's decision to contest each and every aspect of our clients' claim at a series of hearings as they had every right to do."

Boy saw mother stabbed

By A Staff Reporter

A BOY of 8 tried to fight off a man as he stabbed his mother to death, a court was told.

Brady Douglas hit Erroll Graham, 24, over the head with an iron bar as he plunged a kitchen knife into his mother's heart, it was claimed. He then dialled 999 as his mother lay dying, Bristol Crown Court was told.

Mr Graham denies murdering Barbara Wallace, 33, at her maisonette in St Jude's, Bristol. The court was told that Brady was woken by the sound of Mr Graham breaking into their home at night.

Roderick Denyer, for the prosecution, said Miss Wallace had a brief relationship with Mr Graham two years earlier but was a single mother living with Brady and his half-sister, Sacha, 11, at the time.

Mr Denyer said: "Brady later told police that he had woken up when he heard two kicks at the door and went to his mother's room. She looked out of the window and could not see anybody so they went back to bed." He said Brady rushed to his mother's room again when he heard her scream a few minutes later and saw a man lunging at her.

Mr Denyer added: "Brady had an iron bar from a football game and he hit the man with it." His mother screamed and fell to the floor and the man fled. Brady later identified Mr Graham, from Horfield, Bristol, as the killer.

The hearing continues.

Workman fined over lift-shaft fall

By A Staff Reporter

A WORKS contractor who escaped death by inches after plunging down a Hilton Hotel lift shaft was fined yesterday for breaking health and safety regulations.

Timothy Mannix, 33, the joint head of an "incompetent" company dismantling a service lift, had one of his ears nearly torn off and spent three days unconscious. Southwark Crown Court, London, was told the accident happened after his firm, Workside, was asked to remove the lift at the Langham Hilton Hotel, London.

John McGuinness, for the prosecution, said the job should not have been given to Workside. "They are not a specialist company. They are a general labouring contracting company which does work like decorating rooms and drainage." The firm's approach to the work was "thoroughly bad and unsafe".

While the lift was being dismantled it was supported by a chain slung over a metal bar placed across the lift well. The bar was only an inch wider than the shaft. As Mannix stood on the lift floor it plunged 27ft from the ground floor into the sub-basement. His overalls snagged on a metal projection in the shaft.

Rescuers found Mannix unconscious, hanging upside down, his head 12 inches from the metal floor. His left ear was hanging by a "slender thread" of flesh. A surgeon sewed it back.

Mannix, from Edgeware, north London, admitted breaching the regulations. Roy Roebuck, for Mannix, said his client "felt like a fall guy" because he had not negotiated the contract. He was fined £200 and ordered to pay £250 prosecution costs.

Judge Mota Singh, QC, said: "Clearly Workside was totally incompetent to undertake this sort of work but I accept you had no part in securing this contract. This was done by your co-director, who pleaded guilty and was fined in the magistrates' court. But you were on the site, it was your decision to proceed."

Yesterday Hilton International Hotels (UK) was found not guilty of four health and safety offences after the judge decided it was not the employer.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Slow start for gun handover

Only one in ten of the legally registered handguns in Scotland that must be surrendered to police before September 30 has been handed over since July 1, the start of the scheme.

Police forces said yesterday that despite the government warning that gun owners who failed to hand in their weapons faced jail sentences of up to ten years, many handgun owners appeared to be holding on to their weapons until the last moment.

Dog starved

David De Wolfe, 42, from Henbury, Bristol, who starved a dog belonging to his ex-girlfriend to the brink of death, has been given a four-month jail sentence for cruelty and banned from ever owning animals by Bristol magistrates. The dog is recovering.

Beef sales recover

Sales of British beef in June to individual shoppers reached pre-BSE levels. But prices for farmers were about 97p a kg liveweight, against 120p before the crisis in 1995. The Meat and Livestock Commission spoke of "a huge vote of confidence" by consumers.

Good on paper

A newspaper office will become a £50 million leisure complex as part of Manchester's redevelopment following last summer's IRA bombing. The largely derelict former Mirror Group plant has themed restaurants, shops, music arenas and a cinema.

Firearms raid

A man was arrested after 400 guns were recovered by police from the home of a firearms dealer in Brighton. A workshop containing equipment used to adapt guns was also raided, as were addresses in Blackheath, southeast London, and Dartford, Kent.

Epstein tribute

Liverpool leisure and tourism committee is expected to dedicate the city's Neptune Theatre to the memory of Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, after all-party pressure for a commemoration of the impresario who died in 1967.

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Foot steps from past as political sex symbol

Damian Whitworth on a new view of the Labour Party's lost leader

THE ROISTERING early years of Michael Foot and intriguing insights into his long marriage are disclosed today. The veteran leftwinger, who led Labour to defeat in 1983, has fond memories of heady days as a champagne socialist and womaniser.

Jill Craigie, his wife of 48 years, has told a TV documentary how they a discussed frankly the terms of their relationship: "I remember saying to Michael when I very first met him, if you ever have any extra needs I don't want to know, and even more important I don't want anyone else to know. That's the price you have to pay. And I think that's quite a decent attitude, isn't it? A fair one? And that's how it is. He's pretty secretive."

Mr Foot, after being shown the footage of her saying that, responds by making a comparison with his hero Nye Bevan, who had a famously open marriage with Jennie Lee: "The same proposition, by the way, about not letting anybody know if you have any other diversions, 'Don't let me know', that was the same principle on which Nye and Jennie worked, I think. And that was a perfectly sensible thing to do. So I've really got nothing much to add to what she said. And she's laughing about it. There you are."

Ms Craigie was a glamorous film-maker and had been married twice when she met Mr Foot after the war, while making a film about the rebuilding of Plymouth, where he was an MP. Sitting alongside him in another interview, she says that he was very experienced with women when they met.

Foot and his wife Jill today: married for 48 years

"Well, he had a lot of pretty girls before me, you know, plenty of photographs of pretty girls. When I first went to his flat there was a whole range of cosmetics. When I stayed the night you said, 'Here you are'. So he wasn't an innocent, exactly."

In the documentary to be screened tonight, Mr Foot, 83, tells the interviewer Michael Cockerell that his relations with the opposite sex had not always been easy. His eczema had been a hindrance. "I used to think it would interfere with your sex life. I'm sure it did."

Later, however, once he had been taken under the wing of the great newspaper proprietor Lord Beaverbrook and made editor of the *Evening Standard*, his confidence and number of girlfriends grew. He was invited down to join house parties at Beaverbrook's Surrey mansion where he met lots of women and was introduced to a champagne lifestyle.

"You always got good champagne at Beaverbrook's house. We did justice to anything set before us. It was the kind of life of luxury I never knew existed," he says. Mr Foot wooed Ms Craigie at the Ivy resturant. She says that her attraction to him was largely physical. "I liked his mind and I liked his myopic look in his eyes and his smile, and he was rugged and unconventional."

Sarah Foot, the wife of Mr Foot's nephew, the journalist Paul Foot, comments that the former Labour leader shares a trait with the other men in the family. "I think Michael did fall for women, and that's another Foot thing, they're very — they fall for women quite easily."

The film includes Mr Foot's views on Tony Blair. While Paul Foot says he believes his uncle thinks that what has happened to Labour is "bloody awful" — and Mr Foot's friend Spike Milligan says he expects that one day he will crack Mr Blair over the head with his walking stick — Mr Foot is loyal, if hardly gushing: "We get on very well. He's got his view about how things had to be changed. They have been changed and good luck to him."

☐ *Labour's Old Romantic, A Film Portrait of Michael Foot* is on BBC2 at 8.10pm

Michael Foot on the campaign trail in 1950: he was "rugged and unconventional" with an attractive smile

Steam buffs try to derail profits ban

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILWAY buffs are to protest at plans to strip them of cash stakes in the Severn Valley Railway, occasional sanctuary to the world's finest steam engines.

Directors are urging more than 15,000 shareholders to waive their right to dividends or any share of the company if it is forced to wind up its business. The Midlands line attracts some 200,000 passengers to the picturesque route on the banks of the Severn.

The move, which will deprive some shareholders of £10,000 in potential share earnings, is intended to give the company a better chance of receiving a £6 million National Lottery grant toward an indoor marshalling yard at Kidderminster.

Members holding more than 3,000 shares, currently worth 65p each, will be left only with "gold medallions" allowing unlimited first-class travel for four people on the 15-mile stretch of railway from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster.

Attempts are expected to be made at Friday's annual meeting to unseat some of the board members, who hold fewer than 15,000 of the 2.3 million shares in the public limited company. Shareholders fear that they will give up their rights to some £3 million of assets without any guarantee of receiving lottery help.

Peter Knowles, one of the 50 largest shareholders and a stockbroker for the railway, said: "They are asking us to gamble on the lottery. But there is no certainty that we will be given the grant, and what happens then? We will have shares that are worth nothing."

Nobody from the company was available for comment yesterday.

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FIVE TIMES WORLD CHAMPION

Sex phone pioneer puts God on the line

By Russell Jenkins

A FORMER sex chatlines company director is helping to run a Christian helpline. Nigel Holme, 40, of Mold, North Wales, started one of the first live "one to one" premium-rate chatlines in the late 1980s.

At one time his company was turning over £200,000 a month. The company collapsed with debts of £1.4 million after multi-line chatlines were outlawed in 1988.

Mr Holme was converted by a cousin and is promotions director of a Christian helpline and managing editor of an evangelical magazine about to be launched.

At 15, he left the Bryn Alyn children's home in Wrexham, where he says he was sexually abused by its head. John Allen, who is serving six years for indecent assaults. He said: "It was only with money that I thought I would gain respect."

Shrine threatened by flooding

Friars are praying that global warming will not wreck their medieval priory, reports **Ruth Gledhill**

FRIARS at the Carmelite priory at Aylesford, Kent, say the medieval shrine is in danger of collapsing because of global warming.

The priory, visited by 200,000 pilgrims a year, is being undermined by tidal flooding from the Medway, a tributary of the Thames. The threat is particularly galling because not only have the friars spent years developing an environmentally friendly way of life to counter global warming, but local industries are also "green".

The friars, who try to set an example by travelling on public transport rather than in cars and by eschewing aerosols and other environmentally damaging products, have written a prayer for God "to heal our planet", in the hope that disaster might be averted.

But recognising that material assistance is also needed, they are seeking private and public funding to bolster the sagging walls of their 13th-century Pilgrims' Hall.

Father Wilfrid McGreal, the sub-prior and shrine director, said about £300,000 had to be found. "We are getting more high tides than before and a lot of surges in the Medway. The river has changed its course and the bank that used to protect the Pilgrims' Hall has been eroded.

"Our hypothesis is that global warming is the cause. Until recently, we would have one flood in 40 years. Last winter alone we had five, with the river spilling out into the courtyard. One was on Christmas Eve, when we managed to sandbag the building just in time for midnight Mass.

"A building that has lasted 600 years with no ill effects has in the last ten started to lean in on itself. If something is not done, it is in danger of collapsing."

People from many denominations are still using the hall for conferences and retreats. But if structural work is not carried out soon it will have to be closed. The hall, built as a medieval hospice for pilgrims on their way to Canterbury, is the oldest building in the priory's Great Courtyard.

Carmelites founded the priory in 1242 on arriving in England from the Holy Land, living as hermits on land donated by the crusader Richard de Grey. They were expelled at the Reformation and the building had several owners over the centuries. The friars bought it in 1949 and restored it as one of Britain's most popular retreat centres.

The response to their plight by English Heritage and the Environment Department has been sympathetic and the friars are seeking National Lottery cash. But public funding will have to be topped up by money raised themselves.

The soprano Ann Liebeck, who has found "great peace" on visits to Aylesford, is performing two benefit concerts in London for the priory next week, at Blackheath and Wigmore Hall.

☐ The priory is in danger from more than weather. As Father McGreal took a service yesterday, a thief tried to make off with the donations box. He was tackled by two sixth-form boys on a day retreat.

In the spirit of forgiveness for which the friars are known, Father McGreal did not inform police but merely made an entry in the priory's incident book.

BILL GRAHAM

Father McGreal at the riverside Carmelite retreat

Credo

Mysterious faces of Mary Magdalene

Wesley Carr

There often seem to be too many Marys in the Gospels. The mother of Jesus is an obvious one. But what of the others? On Tuesday, the Church will celebrate the enigmatic figure of Mary Magdalene. Throughout history she has been an object of prurient fascination.

This began even when the Gospels were being written. Which stories refer to her? How many Marys were there? A sinner comes and anoints Jesus's feet. A Mary is the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Seven devils are exorcised from a Mary. A Mary stands at the foot of the Cross. The risen Christ greets a Mary in the garden. The Orthodox Churches retain a richness of Marys: three women — the sinner, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and Mary Magdalene. The Latin Church reduces them to the same Mary, although Protestant critics suggest that there were at least two. Even her name is unclear. It may mean that she was from Magdala or that she had curly hair, a sign of an adulteress.

She has attracted artists. Unlike some characters in the Gospels, Mary offers imaginative possibilities. More recently, feminist theologians have valued her. She has a fascinating past to be lived with and is significant at crucial moments. The way in which she has been held as both a bad object — a prostitute and sinner — and a good one — a faithful disciple and first witness to the Resurrection — has made her a sympathetic figure.

Women and men alike celebrate Mary Magdalene because she is a useful saint. Mary, Jesus's mother, is venerated for her single-mindedness. But we have to work with Mary Magdalene. She holds together both our "I" parts — we can identify with her in several ways — and the "Not-I" parts, those aspects of ourselves that we wish to disown. She embodies the ambivalence of discipleship.

Mary accompanied Jesus. Many become Christian through associating with a church, a group of Christians or someone with faith. Churches should never discount such association in favour of commitment. For most people, to believe is not obvious. Ragged edges around a not overdefined Church allow people to associate on their terms.

Believing without belonging is widely discussed today. But there is also a long and splendid history of belonging without believing. People go to church occasionally or even regularly without committing themselves to believe. Mary Magdalene affirms that this behaviour is not disreputable and that the churches should not despise it. The story of Jesus casting out seven devils from Mary focuses the next stage; self-awareness turns to seeking forgiveness. Self-awareness is today highly prized. But the more self-aware we become, the more problematic that self and its context become.

We slide into the borderlands of spirituality, where acceptance and forgiveness are recognised as essential. Therapy does not always grasp this. But enlightenment that is of any use always hurts, because it means a change in some or all of those assumptions with which we are at ease. Then we discover our need for something new — for forgiveness.

Finally, Mary stands at the Cross. This is the end of her association with Jesus and the beginning of her belief. Face to face with God's ultimate self-abandonment, she loses any preoccupation with herself. So she is appointed a witness to the Resurrection.

In the garden, Christ refuses to let her depend any longer: "Do not cling to me." Mary discovers that discipleship means taking on for herself the way of that Cross that she had hitherto only observed.

☐ *The Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr is Dean of Westminster.*

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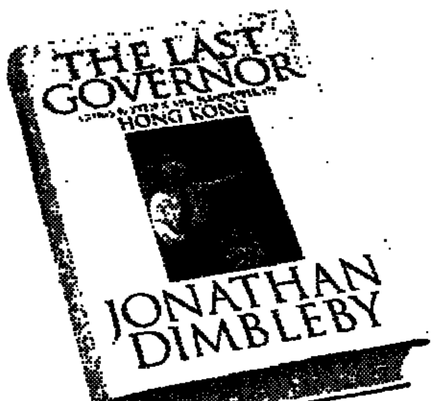
The Governor, Treason and Plot



"Jonathan Dimbleby's remarkable book on Chris Patten, **The Last Governor** ...contains allegations against British ministers and officials as astonishing as anything in recent imperial history. They amount to a charge of treason."
Simon Jenkins, **The Times**

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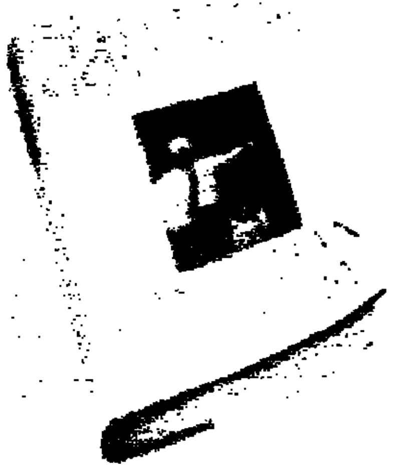
Credo

Mysterious faces of Mary Magdalene



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Chipmunks complete trip around the world

By Mark Henderson

THREE RAF pilots yesterday completed their flight around the world in two Chipmunk training aircraft.

Squadron leaders Tony Cowan, 51, Ced Hughes, 63, and Bill Purchase, 60, landed at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, having taken off from London City airport on May 20. Their 14,000-mile journey included a 5,000-mile flight across Russia never before completed by a foreign pilot.

The two Chipmunks and their pilots, who flew the piston-engined planes on a rota basis, will be at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford today.

Squadron Leader Purchase said the three pilots were delighted to have made it home in time for the Fairford show. "We are thrilled to be here, and tired but excited after the expedition," he said last night. "We hope people will realise the extent of our achievement when they see the tiny size of the Chipmunks and realise quite how far we've been in them."

Exercise Northern Venture took place at the invitation of the Russian air force and has plotted an air route across Russia for commercial and private aircraft. The RAF pilots were joined for the Russian leg of the trip by Major Yuri Vostroknutov, who flew in the Chipmunks' Islander support plane and negotiated tricky landings at remote Siberian airfields.

"Yuri was a fantastic asset, without whom we could never have flown across Russia," Squadron Leader Purchase said. "Russia is not an easy place to fly, especially without local knowledge, and he made it possible. He was a military man and his attitude made it very easy for us to get along and work well together."

Major Vostroknutov guided the Chipmunks to a safe landing on an open field at one stop when the main airfield was flooded and negotiated difficult weather conditions and hazardous mountain landings. A similar flight across Siberia planned last year had to be abandoned because of forest fires east of the Urals.

The Chipmunks were diverted by bad weather in Alaska and made several unscheduled stops in the Rockies because of difficult flying conditions. "We were disappointed to lose so much time on the North American leg of the trip," Squadron Leader Purchase said.

"The conditions were terrible, and we had to put down at mountain airfields rather more than we had hoped. We had hoped to get to Fairford ten days ago."

The expedition was met by a convoy of Chipmunk owners and factory workers in Toronto, where the aircraft were built by de Havilland. Squadron Leader Purchase said: "Virtually the whole factory turned out to meet us in Toronto, which was a fantastic feeling. The place is really the home of the Chipmunk, and they brought out old Tiger Moths and Harvards to welcome the planes home."

The Chipmunks were displayed in the Rockliffe Museum in Ottawa when the pilots stopped off there.

The two-seater planes, which can fly on four-star petrol, were fitted with auxiliary tanks and global-positioning navigation systems. The team had to replace 56 spark plugs, two generators, a propeller, a wheel and a brake system during the expedition.

The Chipmunk served as a training aircraft for the armed forces for 50 years before it was taken out of service in March. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Prince Andrew all learnt to fly in the plane, which has been replaced by the Bulldog and the Slingsby Firefly.

Squadron leaders Hughes, Cowan and Purchase

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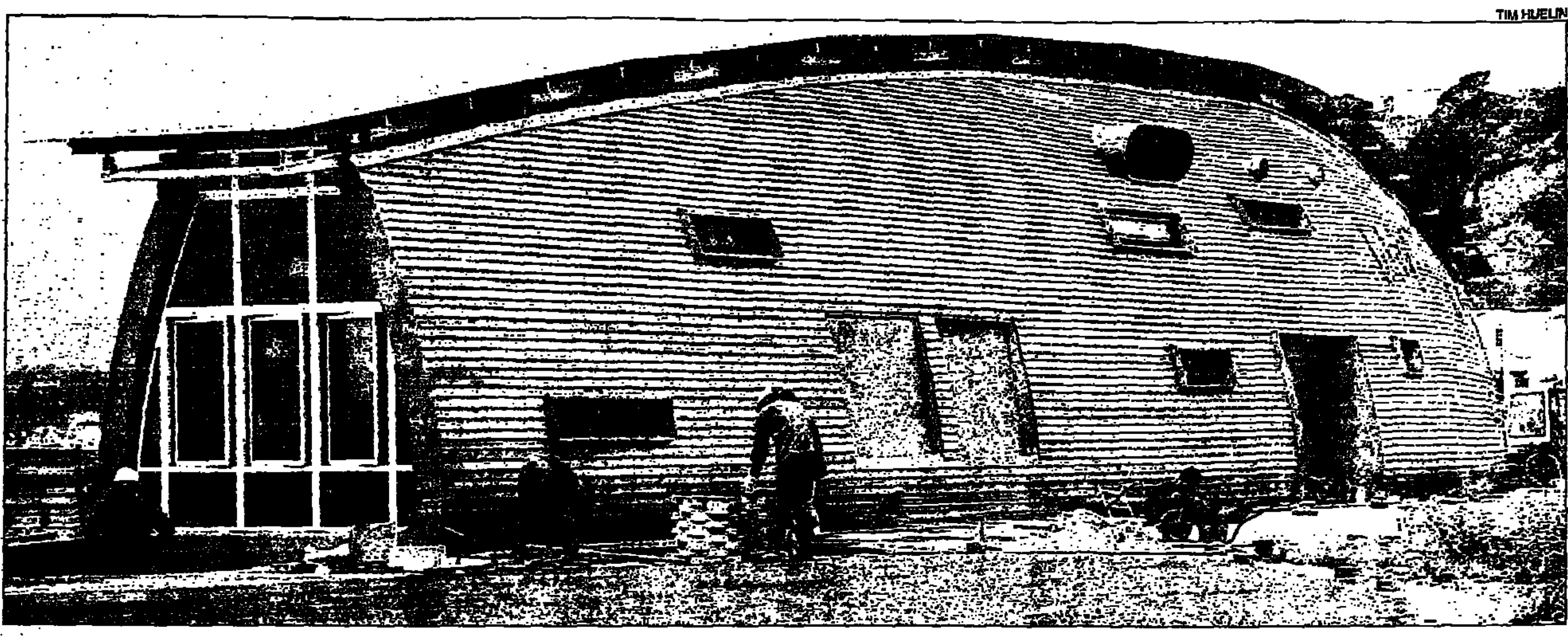


Café rides tide of controversy

By Marcus Binney

JERSEY'S new seafront café has been called a navigational hazard, compared to a beached whale and a pregnant armadillo, and dubbed a monstrosity by a local newspaper. So when others likened it to an upturned hull, the promoters asked Tony Bullimore, the sailor with an inside view on the subject, to open the café today.

The architect, Will Alsop, relishes the nicknames for his buildings. His Cardiff Bay visitors' centre, known as The Jam Roly-Poly, attracted two million visitors. In Marseilles, his powder-coated blue steel regional headquarters was christened *La Maison du Smurf*.

Mr Alsop delights in the fact that the building almost exactly follows his original sketch, dashed off in an hour when Derek Mason, a Jersey architect, called for his help in replacing a tacky café. Mr Alsop says his design began as a fish, with clusters of tables outside to look like a swarm of minnows.

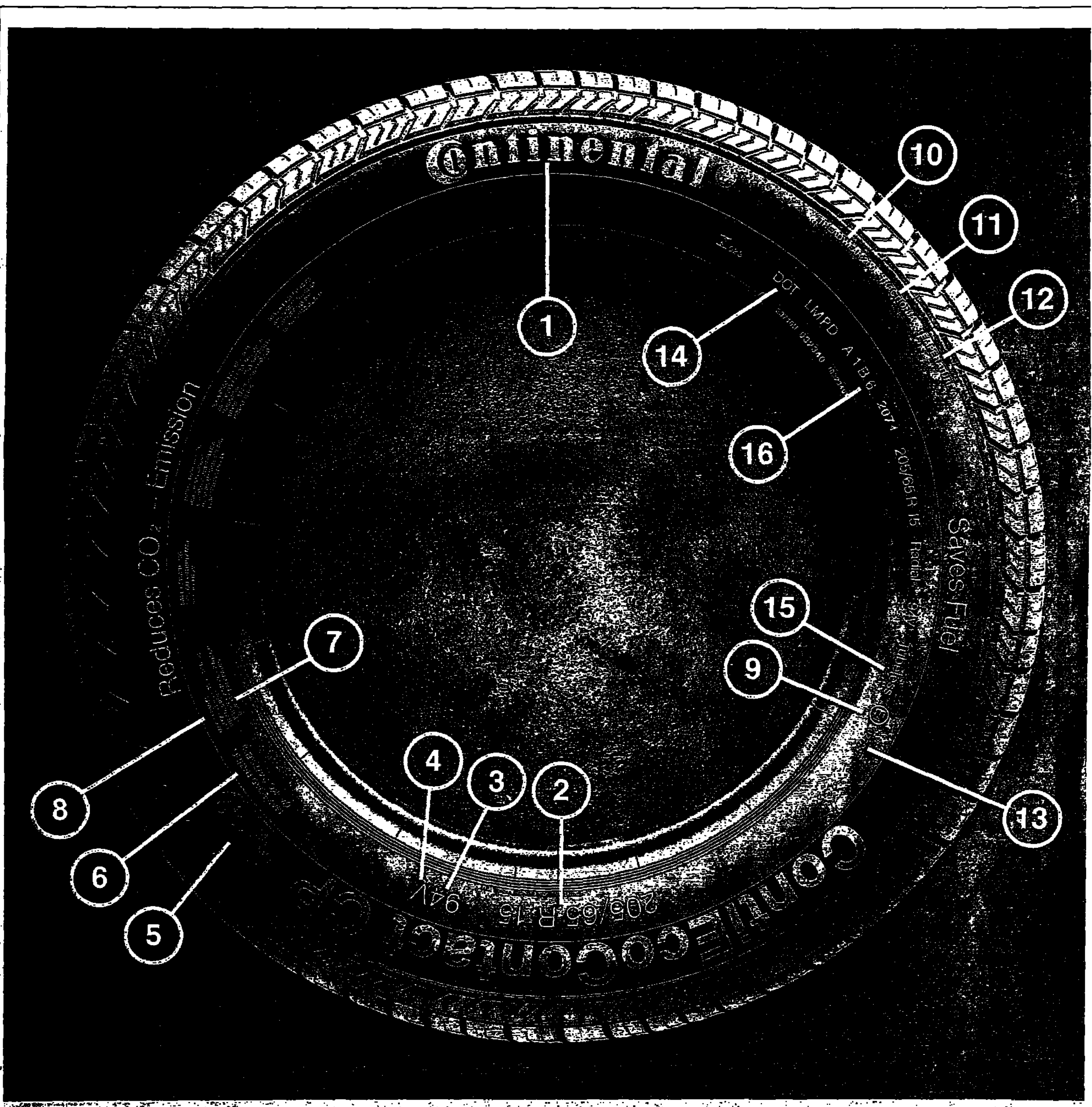
Mr Mason said: "When complaints about the 'shipwrecked hull' started, we did some research which showed that in the last century the site was a boat-building yard. I like to say this is the 763rd boat built on the site." That will please Mr Bullimore, who spent four days in his capsized yacht during January's round-the-world race.

Like all the best expressionist and sculptural architecture, the café, *La Frégate*, looks dramatically different as you move around it. End-on it may look like the back of a Hercules transporter, but the sides swell out as strongly as those of an 18th-century man o'war.

The structure stands in its own miniature dry dock, its 150 tonnes supported on 24 stout concrete columns. The hull is clad, clinker style, in short strips of Canadian cedar which sea breezes are expected to turn quickly to silver.

Entrance is across a series of short bridges, the lower part of each descending to form the walkway and the upper rising to become a canopy.

To admit light, Mr Alsop has split his hull down the centre and introduced a glass top.



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13. Approval number to ECE standard R30 for this tyre. (See: we told you it was a good thing.)
14. The Department of Transportation oversees tyre safety standards in the USA. (Or 'tire' safety as they call it.)
15. Tyre construction type. This tyre, like all modern tyres, is tubeless.
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Continental

'There is nothing quite as ex as an ex-MP'

REPORTS BY JAMES LANDALE, DOMINIC KENNEDY AND MARK HENDERSON

The future is Bright for defeated Tories

Sir Graham: seminars

Sir Graham Bright, former Tory MP for Luton and parliamentary private secretary to John Major, has founded Team 97 to provide the Tories who lost their seats with a *link to the party in Westminster*. *Many of* the 127 defeated Tories are members. Sir Graham is organising seminars and workshops to keep the former MPs "up to scratch" and to give them a voice in the restructuring of the party. The former MPs are being encouraged to put themselves on Central Office's list of speakers who can go out to the constituencies.

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR OUSTED POLITICIANS

Tory MPs who retired or were defeated in May are entitled to a resettlement grant "to assist with the costs of adjusting to non-parliamentary life". The amount is based on age and length of service and ranges between 50 per cent and 100 per cent of the annual £43,300 salary.

MPs with five years' experience in the *House of Commons receive* £21,700. *While that* is undoubtedly more than many constituents receive on redundancy, many former MPs *considered it was not enough to tide them* over until finding a new job.

An extra problem is that many who lost their seats were in their late fifties and early sixties and must wait until they are 65 to start collecting their parliamentary pensions. The size of the pension is based on their length of service, with an annual accrual rate of 2 per cent of *their salary. For example*, someone with five years in Parliament would receive £4,300 a year, 10 per cent of his final salary.

Jonathan Aitken, 54, ousted from Thanet South. The businessman, landowner and former Chief Secretary to the Treasury is trying to *find £1.8 million to pay the legal bills* for his collapsed libel trial.

Richard Alexander, 63 (Newark), a former solicitor, is seeking work.

Rupert Allason, 45 (Torbay), is completing a book about KGB operations in Britain under his pseudonym Nigel West.

Jacques Arnold, 49 (Gravesham), is looking for work. A former banker who speaks Spanish and Portuguese and has worked in Brazil, he is trying to find a job as a consultant with firms investing in Latin America. "It is a worrying time. It is a matter of getting people sufficiently enthusiastic because employing me is not cheap."

Robert Atkins, 51 (South Ribble), who has been on a cricketing tour with his son, declined to comment.

Matthew Banks, 36 (Southport), said: "I hope, after a brief sabbatical, to be able to expand on my business interests. But there will be some colleagues who will have found that doors have closed because they are former Conservative MPs who supported a government which was unpopular."

Michael Bates, 36 (Langbaurgh), a former Paymaster General, said he was enjoying resting with his family and will not be considering his future employment until September.

Spencer Batiste, 52 (Elmet), was consultant to a law firm while in Parliament and is expected to return *to his former career as a solicitor*. He has put his Battersea *pied à terre* up to let for £650 a week. His wife, Susan, said: "There is nothing more ex than an ex-MP."

Henry Bellingham, 42 (Norfolk North West), is trying to add to his non-executive directorships but does not want a full-time job. He said the help available for defeated MPs was "non-existent".

Vivian Bendall, 58 (Ilford North), has returned to business as an estate agent and surveyor.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, 54 (Upminster), was unavailable.

Sir Andrew Bowden, 67 (Brighton Kemptown), is about to begin a lecture tour of America with the English Speaking Union.

John Bowis, 51 (Battersea), works for the World Health Organisation.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, 72 (Brent North), is a non-executive director of Blacks Leisure, an "outdoorwear" company.

Gyles Brandreth, 49 (Chester), is returning to the TV game show *Countdown*.

***Sir Graham Bright**, 55 (Luton), a* former parliamentary private secretary to John Major, returns to the family business. He will become chairman of Dietary Foods.

Michael Brown, 46 (Brigg and Cleethorpes), has joined the contract cleaning firm owned by a fellow ousted MP, David Evans.

Nicholas Budgen, 59 (Wolverhampton South West), has returned to his career as a barrister.

Alistair Burt, 42 (Bury), a former Social Security Minister, denied rumours that he has signed on the dole after being spotted visiting a jobcentre in Manchester. "I wanted to discuss the national insurance *position with people who would* understand it, *should I become self*-employed." MPs like him who always had a small majority were more mentally and practically prepared for life outside Parliament. "There were a number of colleagues who did not realise their jobs were on the line. The shock comes to those who did not even give [defeat] a thought."

Peter Butler, 46 (Milton Keynes North West), has returned to his career as a solicitor.

Matthew Carrington, 49 (Fulham), said: "I am still looking for a job. I am talking to a lot of people. I was a banker for a long time but I haven't been one for ten years."

***Michael Carttiss**, 59 (Great Yarmouth)*, is resting, gardening and considering possible job options related to his former career as a teacher.

Sebastian Coe, 40 (Falmouth and Camborne), is deputy chief of staff in William Hague's office.

David Congdon, 47 (Croydon North East), is a computer expert.

Derek Conway, 44 (Shrewsbury and Atcham), has put his six-bedroom house with three acres of land on the market and the family are moving to a London flat. He is not yet employed.

Anthony Coombs, 44 (Wyre Forest), a millionaire, has returned to *his housebuilding business*.

Simon Coombs, 50 (Swindon), is chairman of the Institute of Customer Service.

Sir John Cope, 60 (Northavon), is taking time off to consider options. "I am enjoying the lull," he said.

James Couchman, 55 (Gillingham), is jobseeking.

Edwina Currie, 50 (Derbyshire South), is presenting radio and TV shows. Her third novel, *She's Leaving Home*, is published in September.

"Am I missing politics? No. The thing I miss badly is having a secure car parking space in town. I also miss having a secretary."

Nirj Deva, 51 (Brentford and Isle*worth*), *has returned to his family* firms. He has set up a think-tank, the Policy Research Centre for Business.

Tim Devlin, 52 (Stockton South), has returned to work as a barrister.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, 54 (Edinburgh West), is an author.

Den Dover, 59 (Chorley), has been job hunting.

Robert Dunn, 51 (Dartford), is looking for work.

Hugh Dykes, 58 (Harrow East), is looking after the business interests he maintained while in Parliament. He is chairman of ADA Video Systems Ltd and has investments in quoted retail and electronics com*panies. A former stockbroker, he is* a shareholder in the Stock Exchange and is looking to expand his business interests in the autumn. Mr Dykes is also continuing to campaign for Britain's greater involvement in Europe.

Harold Elletson, 36 (Blackpool North) owns a management consultancy business.

David Evans 62 (Welwyn Hatfield), runs a cleaning company.

Jonathan Evans, 47 (Brecon and Radnor), is organising the "No" campaign to Welsh devolution and intends to return to being a solicitor in London.

Roger Evans, 50 (Monmouth), has returned to the Bar in his old *Chambers*.

David Evennett, 48 (Erith and Crayford), is working part-time promoting the college in Crayford. He hopes to stand again.

Dame Peggy Fenner, 74 (Medway), said she was unlikely to be chasing for a new seat but likely to remain involved with the party. "If I want to retire, I will," she said. "If I don't, I won't."

Nigel Forman, 54 (Carshalton and Wallington), an academic, was unavailable for comment.

***Michael Forsyth**, 42 (Stirling), has* been tipped for jobs in the City.

Sir Marcus Fox, 70 (Shipley), keeps an office in Tory headquarters in Smith Square in his voluntary role as chairman of the Association of Conservative Clubs.

Roger Freeman, 55 (Kettering), a former businessman, is moving back into the private sector.

Douglas French, 53 (Gloucester), has returned to a business setting up seminars and conferences for financial institutions, which he hopes to combine with some non-executive directorships.

Sir Peter Fry, 66 (Wellingborough), a former insurance broker, has retired.

***Phil Gallie**, 58 (Ayr), has had to sign* on so he can keep up his National Insurance payments. "After the election I was absolutely shattered. It was a devastating feeling waking up in the morning. I always used to be in the House of Commons by 7.30 and never away till 11.30 at night. I would rather be working." He has been offered jobs in London but is arranging interviews closer to home. He has joined the Think Twice campaign, working against devolution.

Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, 51 (Wimbledon), retains directorships of companies involved in health care, security, printing, transport and property. A former occupational physician, he also works with health charities. He chairs the new Countryside Alliance, a *merger of* his British Field Sports Society with the Countryside Movement and the Countryside Business Group. Their mass Hyde Park rally to save hunting last week was his brainchild and he will continue lobbying all parties against the Foster Bill. "I *look forward to a more mentally* stimulating life than as a parliamentary private secretary."

Sir John Gorst, 69, (Hendon) has returned to consultancy work and is involved with charities.

Harry Greenway, 62 (Ealing North), is a consultant and lecturer. "The initial shock is extremely difficult. I didn't see it coming until 6pm on May 1. When it did come, you were live on TV getting this tremendous sock to the teeth. The way I handled it was to think of what Churchill said, 'In defeat, defiance'. That gives you extraordinary bottle. I thought it would make me emotional and it did but I was able to contain it. That has been my motto since. I feel very *resilient. I am not giving way to any* of it. I think one or two might have gone to a headshrink but I haven't been myself. The best therapy is to talk to each other."

Peter Griffiths, 69 (Portsmouth North), a former headmaster, declined to discuss his options. His local newspaper has heard nothing about him finding a new job.

Neil Hamilton, 48 (Tatton), is making celebrity media appearances with his wife.

Dr Keith Hampson, 53 (Leeds North West), is a consultant for several companies and is keeping his home in the constituency where he may stand again.

Jeremy Hanley, 51 (Richmond and *Barnes*), *a former Conservative* chairman, is unemployed but said: "I have never been happier. The garden looks lovely. I am extremely positive." A chartered accountant before he became a minister, Mr Hanley is hoping to help to run investment companies. He has given himself until September to decide his next move.

Andrew Hargreaves, 42 (Birmingham Hall Green), is looking for work. "Life on civvie street is wonderful. Because one has none of the constraints of Westminster, you can see more of your family, you can be where you want when you want, and you can choose what to do. I am looking at a number of options and am really rather chipper." With two sons at private school, he recognises that he might have to tighten his belt a bit if nothing comes up soon.

Warren Hawksley, 54 (Stourbridge), said: "I am job hunting like mad." He was offered a job working for a charity but it fell through at the last minute.

***Jerry Hayes**, 44 (Harlow), is return*ing to the bar while continuing his media work.

Charles Hendry, 38 (High Peak), is chief of staff in William Hague's office.

Sir James Hill, 70 (Southampton Test), has retired.

Robert Hughes, 46 (Harrow West), is finding work in industry.

David Hunt, 55 (Wirral), has returned to his career as solicitor.

Toby Jessel, 63 (Twickenham), is retiring.

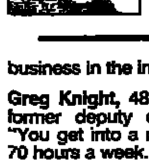
Gwilym Jones, 49 (Cardiff North), has a couple of consultancies.

Robert Jones, 46 (Hertfordshire West), a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors is, according to local Conservatives, "having a rest and taking stock".

Timothy Kirkhope, 52 (Leeds North East), a former Home Office Minister, has returned to work as a solicitor. "The big thing," he said, "is that during my year and a half at the Home Office I probably did the most radical review of licensing law *in modern times. My expertise* in relation to licensing and gambling is something a number of people are interested in. Commercial firms, big law firms and at least one large accountant are interested in using me. What I did in the Home Office has made a lot of difference to the gambling scene."

Roger Knapman, 53 (Stroud), has sold his Westminster flat and is running a property business.

Angela Knight, 46 (Erewash) is job hunting. "There is one offer around, a couple of others in the pipeline. I am quite hopeful and very positive. I was only in Parliament for one term. The rest of my life I have been in business in the industrial field."



'I miss having secure parking in town' — Edwina Currie

Greg Knight, 48 (Derby North), a former deputy chief whip, said: "You get into a routine of working 70 hours a week. It is just nice now *being able to smell the roses. I am* using the time to air my classic cars that were under dust covers for four years because of my parliamentary work. I am just leaving to take my '49 Bewick Roadmaster for a spin."

George Kynoch, 50 (Kincardine and Deeside), is returning to his family firm.

***Jacqui Lait**, 49 (Hastings and Rye), has several consultancies. "I have* had various headhunters on. I have had one or two approaches," she said.

Norman Lamont, 55 (Kingston upon Thames), is working for Jupiter Asset Management and a couple of other companies. He also has seven company directorships. He is writing his memoirs.

Ian Lang, 57 (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale), was tipped as a potential chairman of Lloyd's but later ruled out. He will not stand again as an MP.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, 60 (Burton), has returned to his career as a barrister and has been offered the headship of his chambers. "I am one of the *lucky ones. I always kept up the Bar* because it told me what was going on in the law."

Barry Legg, 48 (Milton Keynes South West), a former businessman, was unavailable.

Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd, 54 (Morecambe and Lunesdale), said he had a *million irons in the fire and a million ideas in his head. He is* considering starting a business related to his wife's garden designs. "I certainly intend to be making money in a year's time. At the moment, I am living on reserves."

ALAN WELLER

Angela Knight, starting a five-day month, with Robert Balfour, Pepma chairman

THE KNIGHT'S TALE

Angela Knight, former Economic Secretary to the Treasury, secured a part-time job yesterday as a non-*executive director of the Pep Managers'* Association. The former MP for Erewash will join the board next month.

The group represents 135 financial organisations managing PepS worth almost £50 billion. Mrs Knight, 46, will work there for four to five days each month and continue to look for other work in the meantime. As a recent Treasury Minister she consulted the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments before accepting the role. Mrs Knight is a divorcée with two sons, aged 8 and 11. Before becoming an MP she worked in *senior management posts in industry. She was* in Parliament for only five years, so her business experience is more recent than many MPs.

She said: "I am delighted to be involved at such a key time for the industry. PepS have helped to provide the savings ethic and I look forward to helping shape the future of new savings initiatives, such as the individual savings accounts."

Sir Rhodes: fourth life

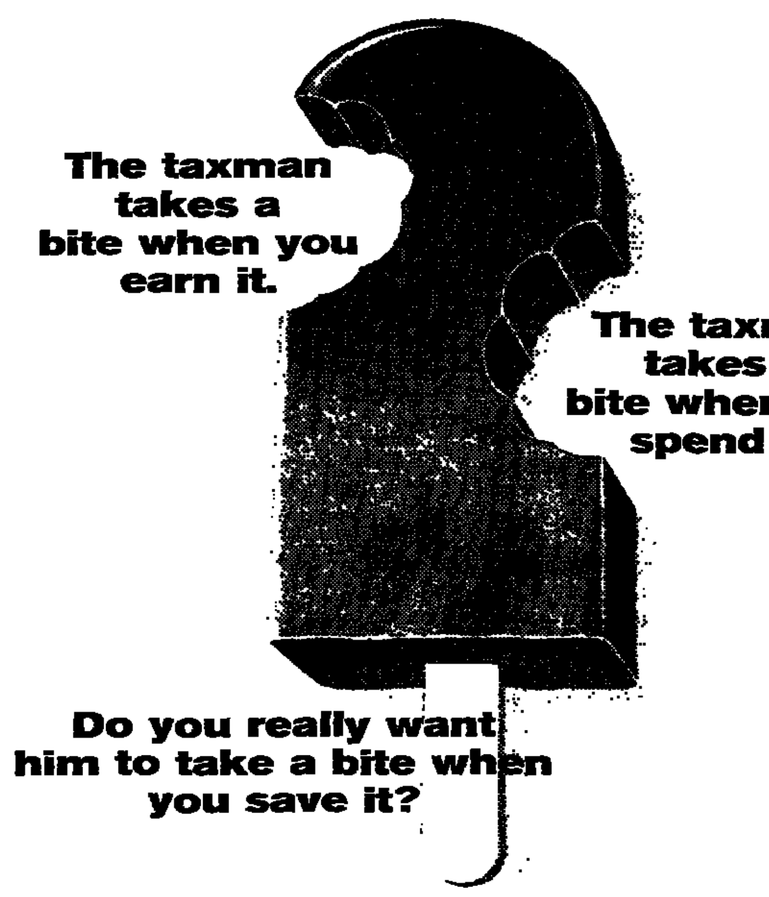
JACK OF ALL TRADES' TALE

For most Tory MPs *over the age of 60 who* lost their seats in May, their active professional life ended. But Sir Rhodes Boyson, 72, the irrepressible MP for Brent North since 1974, said that he was merely *moving into the fourth of* his many lives. "My first was in the Royal Navy, my second was as head of three of the biggest schools in this country and then my third was 23 years as an MP."

He was off seeking *work within days*. "I immediately got in contact with my literary agent. I have worked up a synopsis of a book on contemporary politics."

People also began ringing *him to see what he was* interested in doing. As a result, Sir Rhodes is setting up an educational charity to research the teaching of phonics. He is also involved in an American company working in phonics.

He is a non-exective director of Blacks Leisure, the outdoor clothing company, and has been offered several others. He has also been asked to give lectures on the British political scene *in America* and chairs a Tory dining club.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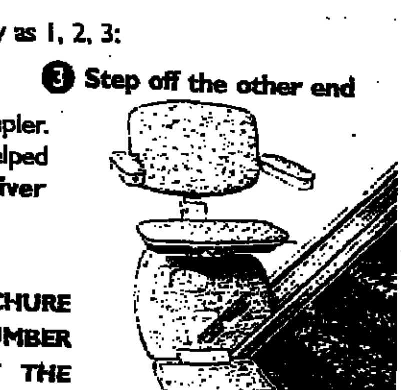

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GILL ALLEN

Matthew Banks, a former army officer who lost his seat, with his wife Jane and their twins. She lost her job as his Commons secretary and their income dropped by £60,000

THE BANKER'S TALE

For Matthew Banks, the former Tory MP for Southport, the general election result was a double blow. Not only did the 36-year-old former army officer lose his job as an MP but his wife, Jane, lost hers as his secretary in the House of Commons.

The dual loss of income, worth more than £60,000, was felt more keenly at the Banks's home because there were two extra mouths to feed. Mrs Banks gave birth to twins, Angus and Ella, on April 14 in the middle of the election campaign.

Mrs Banks had worked at the Commons since the 1980s for several Tory MPs before she met Mr Banks. They married in December 1992, just before he was elected. "If you lose an MP's salary (£43,300) and you lose the average salary of a member's secretary — £20,000 to £25,000 — then of course it makes an impact," he said.

Although Mrs Banks had worked in the Commons for several members, accumulating many years' service, she receives her statutory redundancy pay-off for only the last MP for whom she worked. That made a difference of several thousand pounds. "Our circumstances would be particularly difficult if I didn't have business interests to fall back on," he said.

Mr Banks, who once worked for Barclays Bank, had maintained a small financial consultancy business while an MP. "I am fortunate that I never lost touch with what was going on outside the Westminster goldfish bowl. There are a number of my colleagues who are in some trouble at the moment."

He is currently developing his "very, very small business" to manage people's financial assets.

"We are moving towards an entirely professional political class but what we haven't done is bring the financial rewards or other compensation to the level that would be similar to the United States," he said.

THE BACKBENCHER'S TALE

Jim Couchman could be forgiven for not anticipating his current plight. He was defending the normally safe Tory berth of Gillingham with a 16,638 majority.

But May 1 was not a normal day. Mr Couchman, 55, was ousted by a Labour swing of more than 16 per cent. He is still recovering from the shock.

"It is a bit like bereavement," he said. "No one anticipated how far things would go."

Before entering Parliament in 1983, Mr Couchman ran a successful chain of pubs in London. Although he remained involved during most his years at Westminster, he pulled out of the business two years ago and he has nothing to fall back on. His wife is a magistrate but does no paid work.

"I have put out a lot of applications and have had no joy," he said. "I have even tried one or two headhunters. They are all very charming but don't have anything you are looking for. I have applied for a few public-sector appointments, a few charities, two or three school bursarships."

He has also looked for jobs from friends in Parliament: "But one's list of contacts is somewhat diminished by the slaughter in May, and they are all in Opposition anyway."

His children, who have passed school age, were trying to keep his spirits up, he said. However, despite remaining involved with his constituency, Mr Couchman feels the loss of Parliament keenly. "The worst thing is the empty days and not knowing when they are going to stop. All the doors seem closed at the moment. But I am sure something will turn up."

TONY WHITE

Couchman: "All the doors seem closed at the moment"

Sir Jim Lester, 65 (Broxtowe), is a consultant. He has just returned from Papua New Guinea, where he was a Commonwealth election observer. He is taking his children for a holiday in Australia.

Lady Olga Maitland, 53 (Sutton and Cheam), a former journalist, is clearing her backlog of constituency papers and continuing her media work. She hopes to write a book.

Gerry Malone, 48 (Winchester), is fighting to have his constituency result declared void after losing by two votes. He is not yet employed. "I am simply concentrating on the court case at the moment so I can't make any commitments."

Keith Mans, 51 (Wyre), had a list of telephone numbers prepared in case he lost his seat. "I started ringing at 9.30am," he said. He has found an office in central London and is setting himself up as an aerospace consultant. He believes Tory MPs should practice what they have preached for the last 18 years about finding work. "There is a need to get on your bike. If you belong to the party that believes in job flexibility, you cannot complain when it happens to you."

Paul Marland, 57 (Gloucestershire West), is a farmer.

Tony Marlow, 57 (Northampton North), is a farmer in Wales. "I am well and actively employed," he said.

John Marshall, 56 (Hendon South), has gone back to his old career of stockbroking. "I was already working part time for MeesPierson Securities, so it was not hard to move over when I lost my seat rather unexpectedly. Those of us who were defeated have experience that can be drawn on. I intend to stay in politics and I'm standing in the local elections next year."

David Martin, 52 (Portsmouth South), is returning to the Bar. He last practised in 1976 before taking up a job with the family caravan business: "I am doing mini-pupillages and I hope to be starting to practise in a few months. I am rather excited to be going back. I have to get my career back on a steady course. At the moment politics is a hobby, not a way of life." In many ways, he is glad to be out of Parliament. "It was such an awful government. I was so unhappy."

David Mellor, 48 (Putney), has many business consultancies, some involving the Middle East. He is continuing his media work.

Andrew Mitchell, 41 (Gedling), is merchant banking with Lazards, and pursuing business interests in Nottingham.

Sir Roger Moate, 59 (Faversham), is continuing the insurance broking interests he maintained while in Parliament.

Michael Morris, 60 (Northampton South), owns Modern Personnel Ltd which imports Sri Lankan kitchenware.

Sir Michael Neubert, 63 (Romford), will be going on a month's holiday in mid-August. In mid-September he plans to start work on a lighthearted memoir. "I was the writer and director of *The Blue Review*, a comedy show which was quite famous in its time and did good business at Tory conferences and so on. I don't want to do a heavy set of memoirs but I would love to do something humorous about the Thatcher years. I'm also a semi-professional oboist and I'm taking the chance to practise for an hour every day. I don't imagine I should have to make a living that way as I have a pension but it is nice to get it going again. I'm keeping in touch with Westminster as rector's warden at St Margaret's Church. I spent 23 years there and got quite attached to it so I will certainly be keen to get back. You have not seen the last of me yet."

Tony Newton, 59 (Braintree), is "considering his options".

David Nicholson, 52 (Taunton), is a Commons researcher.

Philip Oppenheim, 41 (Amber Valley), is finishing a political novel. Having had a small majority, he was more than ready for defeat. "I have loved being out," he said. "The freedom to be and to do what you want, to work with people of your choice. There are a lot of people who are in shell shock. They are in denial."

Sir Irvine Patnick 67, (Sheffield Hallam), has set up a political consultancy, Key Turn Ltd with another defeated Conservative.

'I have never been happier' — Jeremy Hanley, who is out of work

James Pawsey, 63, (Rugby and Kenilworth). Mr Pawsey is also a non-executive director of a market research company, Opinion Research Business, and is looking for a publisher for a novel. He is keen to advertise his availability as a new Michael Dobbs. "The book's called *Prime Minister's Questions* and it's a thriller about an IRA attack on the Houses of Parliament during Question Time. It also features plenty of political intrigue and a Tory leadership election, so it's rather topical at the moment. I am really enjoying myself and discovering that there really is life after Parliament."

Elizabeth Peacock, 59 (Batley and Spen), is working for anti-abortion pressure groups.

David Porter, 49 (Waveney), is setting himself up as a freelance public relations consultant and journalist. "I have only just got started this month but I already have some local clients," he said. "I am doing a correspondence course in freelance journalism. I am staying in the area. I used to be a teacher and a Conservative agent but I won't go back to either. I would need to be retrained and both would be hard to do after ten years as an MP."

Michael Portillo, 44 (Enfield Southgate), is a part-time adviser on international business development for Kerr McGee, an oil exploration and production company in Oklahoma. He has been doing some broadcasting. Mr Portillo failed to become European Union High Representative in the former Yugoslavia.

William Powell, 48 (Corby), declined to comment.

Tim Rathbone, 64 (Lewes), is looking for work linked to his previous career in marketing. He is maintaining his interest in South African affairs. An ex-chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Drug Misuse, he remains involved in campaigning against drugs.

Rod Richards, 50 (Clwyd North West), a former BBC journalist and Welsh Office Minister, is seeking media work. He has stayed active in the Tory party, particularly William Hague's campaign and the Uxbridge by-election. He is campaigning for a "No" vote to devolution in Wales. "It's not as easy as you would think for former ministers. There are many jobs I have a chuckle at when I see them advertised in the paper. As a former Health Minister I could do the job of chairman of an NHS trust standing on my head but nobody would dream of appointing me because of the political connotations."

Graham Riddick, 41 (Colne Valley), a former sales manager for Coca-Cola, is job hunting. He is a director of the Freedom Association.

Malcolm Rifkind, 51 (Edinburgh Pentlands), is a part-time international adviser to BHP Petroleum, an Australian-based oil company.

Raymond Robertson, 37 (Aberdeen South), a former Scottish Office minister, has been unemployed since leaving the Commons but is tipped to become chief executive of the Scottish Conservative Party on a salary of £50,000. "I'm doing nothing at the moment," he said. "I really haven't thought about my future at all. My family and friends suggested that I shouldn't rush into anything and I'm taking that sound advice. I'm taking a long break to mull over my options." Of the Scottish Conservative post he said: "Well, the media always seem to know much more about such things than I do." He does not intend to resume his career as a teacher.

Mark Robinson, 50 (Somerton and Frome), a barrister, has been appointed director of a non-governmental organisation from mid-October. The appointment will be announced formally in two weeks. Before entering the Commons, he worked for the Secretary-General of the United Nations for six years and spent six years with the Commonwealth Secretariat. "From what I hear from my colleagues, it seems I am one of the lucky ones who has fallen on his feet," he said. "I have found a great job that suits me very well, very fast." Mr Robinson was out of Parliament between 1987 and 1992 after losing his seat. "I became a director of a small merchant bank for that time but that did not appeal to me this time around." He has not ruled out a return to politics. "It is crucial that we stay in touch, both with the national party and the constituencies. I'm staying on at my association as a political adviser."

Dame Angela Rumbold, 64 (Mitcham and Morden), a former party vice-chairman, is throwing herself into charity and think-tank work. "I'm working for a new charity for handicapped children called Wheelykids and continuing raising money for the Minerva Fund, part of the Girl's Public Day Schools Trust. I have also been think-tanking."

Michael Portillo, part-time adviser to an oil company in Oklahoma

Tom Sackville, 46 (Bolton West), is a merchant banker.

David Shaw, 46 (Dover), has a couple of non-executive directorships to fall back on. He is considering a joint business venture with another defeated MP.

Sir Colin Shepherd, 59 (Hereford), is resting and considering his options. He has a stake in a family engineering firm.

Sir Dudley Smith, 70 (Warwick and Leamington), is a management consultant.

Sir Derek Spencer, 61 (Brighton Pavilion), is a QC.

Robert Spink, 48 (Castle Point), is a management consultant.

Iain Sproat, 58 (Harwich), is a headhunter with James Sheppard in London. He has already sent letters to MPs asking them to go on to his books.

Robin Squire, 53 (Hornchurch), a former chartered accountant, is unemployed.

Michael Stern, 54 (Bristol North West), is a chartered accountant with Cohen Arnold.

David Sumberg, 56 (Bury South) is taking up a job at Eversheds solicitors in the West End of London. He has been appointed director of the Anglo-Israeli Association. "People need a helping hand changing job and Members of Parliament are no exception," he said.

Walter Sweeney, 48 (Vale of Glamorgan), is a solicitor in Yorkshire.

John Sykes, 40 (Scarborough), runs a fuel firm and has agricultural interests.

Sir Donald Thompson, 65 (Calder Valley), a former farmer, butcher and chair of an animal health trust, is semi-retired. He does voluntary work for the Friends of War Memorials.

Sir Malcolm Thornton, 58 (Crosby) former chairman of the Education Select Committee, said he is resting and considering options, particularly in education. He is not going back to being a Mersey river pilot, as his licence has expired and "the attractions of climbing up and down ladders at three in the morning have worn off". Nor will he stand for parliament again.

Richard Tracey, 54 (Surbiton), a former journalist and sports minister, is unemployed but seeking work in the media.

Ian Twinn, 47 (Edmonton), is a freelance planning consultant. He turned down a job with a trade association.

William Waldegrave, 50 (Bristol West), is involved in farming and media work. He has been on a French course since losing his seat. He is tipped to join Biotechnology Investments, run by N M Rothschild, as non-executive director.

Bill Walker, 68 (Tayside North), is an aerospace consultant.

Gary Waller, 52 (Keighley), said: "I am not yet employed. I would probably like to work in the media or communications but nothing has come up yet. I used to work as a journalist writing about personal savings and I also worked for an advertising agency."

John Watts, 50 (Slough), a former Transport Minister, lost the safe seat of Reading East after relinquishing marginal Slough. Now he is unemployed. He applied to be Tory candidate at the Uxbridge by-election. "I have not been doing a great deal since I lost," he said. "When you have been running the road programme and selling off the railway, it is hard to take a step down. I am still looking for something suitable." He is staying involved in Reading politics, hoping to return to the Commons. "I was disappointed not to make the Uxbridge shortlist as I would have been a sensible choice of candidate. I am a local man and I have been a member of the local party there. Mr Randall [the candidate] must have something very special. I'd like to get back to Parliament but I can't imagine there will be a lot of good by-election vacancies." Mr Watts does not intend to go back to chartered accountancy, his career before the Commons. He is planning business deals.

Tim Wood, 56 (Stevenage), used to work in computers and information technology. After looking at options, there is "nothing fixed".

THE RESEARCHER'S TALE

Amid the hordes of young, fresh-faced assistants who scurry around Westminster doing errands for MPs, there is a familiar and surprisingly mature figure that has been spotted. David Nicholson, 52, was MP for Taunton until his Liberal Democrat opponent wiped out his 3,336 majority.

With no family business or previous career outside politics to fall back on, Mr Nicholson has taken up a stopgap opportunity of part-time research work with Tom King, MP for Bridgwater.

As well as run-of-the-mill research for speeches and constituency duties, he is also using his expertise in housing matters by compiling a paper on how to combat massive property developments encroaching the countryside.

He said: "It is short term while I look around for other options. It is mutually beneficial to me and to Tom. We worked very closely in the previous ten years." Mr King said: "David is a great asset. He knows his way around."

Nicholson: stopgap

The move from MP to assistant poses practical difficulties. He can no longer go to the members' lobby or tea rooms. He is allowed on the terrace only with an MP.

He admitted: "It is not as much fun as before May 1."

THE PRESS AND PR MEN'S TALE

Charles Lewington: former director of communications at Tory Central Office, poached from *The Express on Sunday*. After writing a short account of the campaign in which he revealed John Major's occasional despair, he is looking to return to the media.

Sheila Gunn: former senior Tory press officer who was in charge of liaison with lobby correspondents. She became John Major's personal press officer during the election, a position she continues to hold in an unofficial capacity. She is writing a book on the election campaign.

The Saatchis: William Hague finally ended the Tory party's 20-year relationship with Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles. Rows over strategy during the election made the split inevitable.

Sir Tim Bell: key public relations adviser to Baroness Thatcher who worked in an unofficial capacity on the 1997 election campaign. Chairman of Lowe Bell Communications, dropped as the leading PR adviser to British Airways this week because of its "outdated" Conservative connections.

Tory chicken: redundant

Tory Chicken: Noel Flanagan, 39, hired to dress in a chicken costume and challenge Tony Blair to a debate during the election campaign.

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MINOLTA

Germans put on alert for flood exodus

As Poland mourns its victims of two weeks' torrential rain, homelessness is beckoning for thousands across the border, **Deborah Collcutt** reports

POLAND held a national day of mourning yesterday for 48 known flood victims, while German authorities stood by for mass evacuations in the eastern state of Brandenburg where flood waters have already crept past the highest levels this century.

Around Frankfurt an der Oder, water levels were rising *at the rate of two inches an* hour early yesterday, but slowed later. Two small villages nearby were evacuated.

Meteorologists said that heavy downpours over Brandenburg, Poland and the Czech Republic, forecast for last night and today, would cause water levels to rise again, but they could not predict when. More than 35,000 police officers, firefighters *and German troops* were standing by to assist in case of mass evacuations, and border police were ready to drop 1.6 million sandbags from helicopters over the banks of the Oder.

The closure of hundreds of bridges and crossings along a 100-mile stretch of the border with Poland was announced by the Brandenburg Interior Ministry. Motorists were warned *to avoid driving to* eastern Brandenburg unless absolutely necessary and the 6,000 lorries and 40,000 cars *that drive over* the Polish-German borders daily were being diverted to crossings further south in Bavaria.

In Poland, while the nation mourned, President Kwasniewski rushed through emergency legislation, *designed to* help victims of flooding that has devastated the south of the country. His Government has been criticised for doing too little too late by the opposition, which said a state of emergency should have been declared in the worst-hit areas.

Polish television and radio stations replaced scheduled programmes with information bulletins, and flags flew at *half mast. Around 16,000* troops were mobilised to reinforce flood barriers in the south as the country braced itself for another lashing of rain. Thousands of people were put on alert to evacuate their homes.

Since torrential rains began two weeks ago, about 450,000 acres of land have been flooded and more than 132,000 homes evacuated. Each family hit by *flooding* will receive about £525 under a finance law amended in the Polish parliament on Thursday.

In the Czech Republic, flood tides have left 46 people dead in the country's worst natural calamity this century. The worst flooding caused scores of road and rail links to be cut and hundreds of businesses *were forced to close*.

Farms and houses have been destroyed and the total damage is estimated to range from £868 million to £1.73 billion.

The Government, already hit by a huge trade deficit which forced budget cuts to *slow demand* and defend the weakened crown, earmarked about £190 million for flood relief.

River *authorities emptied* dams on the Vltava, which flows through Prague, and elsewhere to make way for the next downpour.

Up to 4in of rain were expected to fall in the mountain in the next 24 hours, the Czech Weather Service said. Flood teams were repairing breached defences in expectation of a fresh onslaught.

Cloudbursts from the same general low-pressure system that has battered Poland and the Czech Republic also wreaked havoc in Austria, *putting wide areas of the* country on flood alert as swollen rivers rose to breach their banks.

Manfred Bauer, a meteorologist, predicted a catastrophe if downpours kept up in the regions of Lower Austria, Styria, Salzburg and Upper Austria this weekend.

In the northern province of Upper Austria, waters from the Trattnach river washed over a campsite near Grieskirchen where 24 teenagers were rescued by firefighters, the radio reported.

Last week the country suffered its worst flooding this century, with water levels reaching the roofs of houses in the Lower Austrian plains around Vienna.

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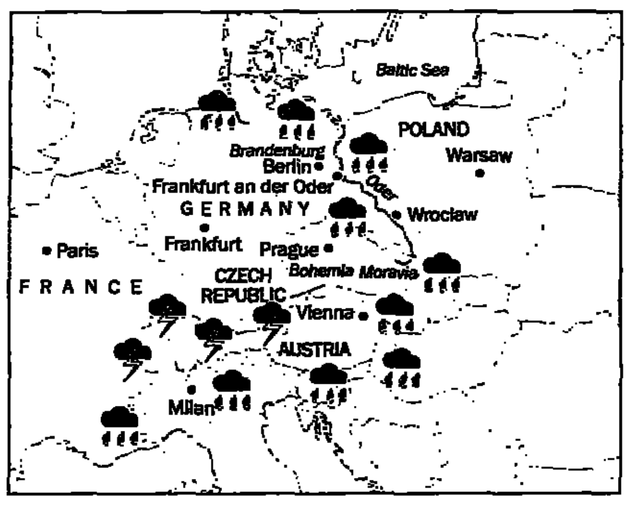
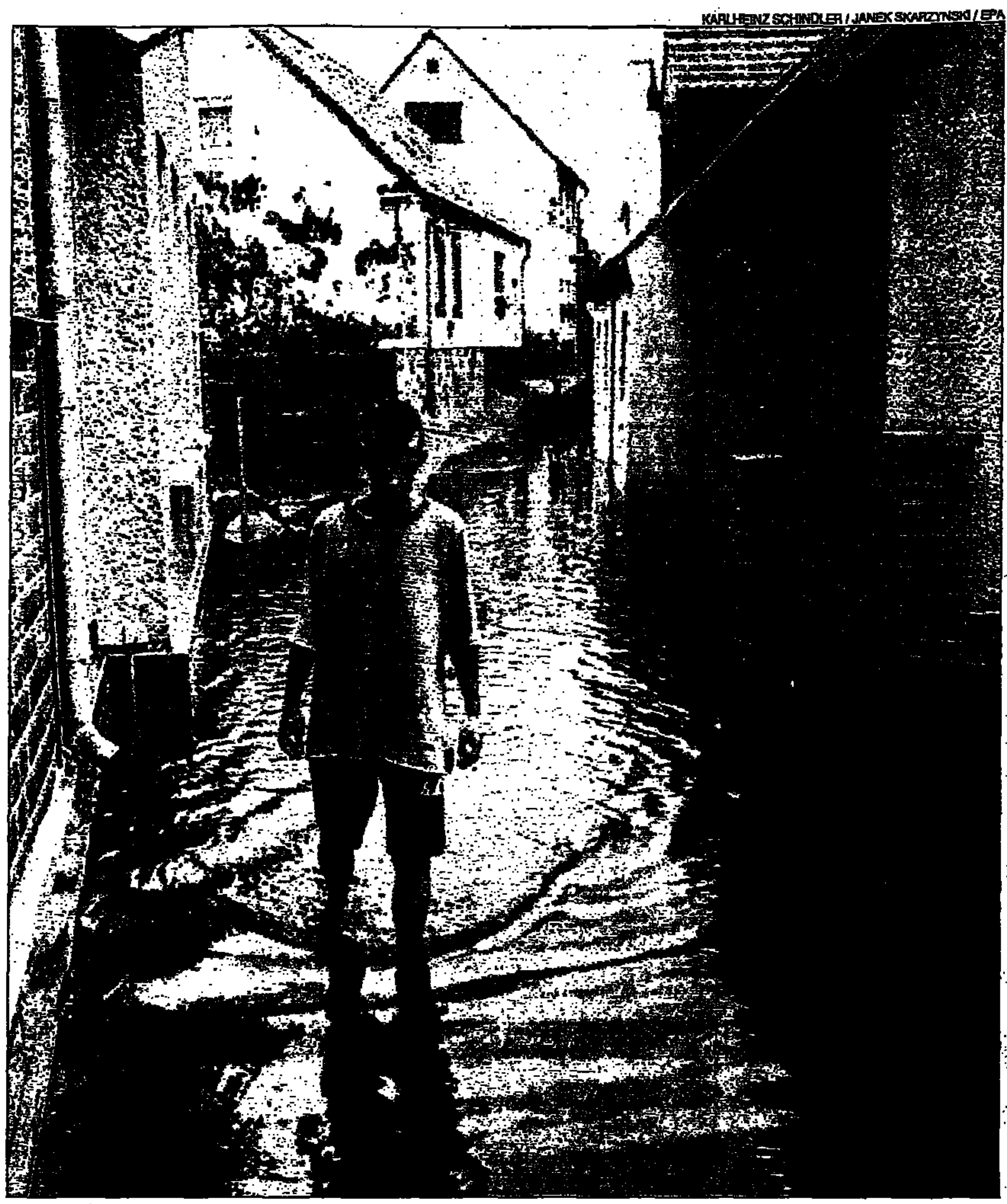


KARLHEINZ SCHINDLER / JANEK SKARZYNSKI / EPA



Flooding in Eisenhüttenstadt, Brandenburg, above, and shoulder-deep waters in Wroclaw, Poland, below

South of France resorts braced for gales

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TOURISTS in the South of France were warned to take care over the weekend as forecasters predicted gale-force and squally winds that are likely to bring misery to the Côte d'Azur.

The meeting of high pressure over Western Europe and Britain and low pressure over Central Europe is funnelling strong Mistral winds down *through Poland*, Germany and eastern France to the south.

Dave Cox, of the Meteorological Office's international forecasting section, said wind speeds in Marseilles were already exceeding 35 knots. "The winds will get stronger over the next day or so . . . and will be gusting a lot more than 40 knots," he said. "If you are on the beach you will be sand-blasted, in a tent blown away and in a small boat it will be unpleasant and very dangerous . . . a nasty wind."

Ivan Obrusnik, director of the Hydro-Meteorological Institute in Prague, said that flooding in parts of the Czech Republic was worse than the great floods of 1903.

"The ones we are having now are bigger and lasting longer . . . it is a catastrophe," Dr Obrusnik said. Some mountain regions had seen up to 600mm of rain in five days; the normal average for the time of year would have been up to 25mm. Dr Obrusnik said 600mm was the equivalent to a third of normal annual rainfall.

Computer models of global warming indicate that parts of Europe may see more violent *downpours as pollution* and rising temperatures alter weather systems. Dieter Kraemer, director of hydrology and water resources at the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva, said: "In Switzerland we have had extreme rainfall for a couple of weeks." The London Weather Centre said that Britain was unlikely to suffer any ill-effects from the bad weather in Central Europe.

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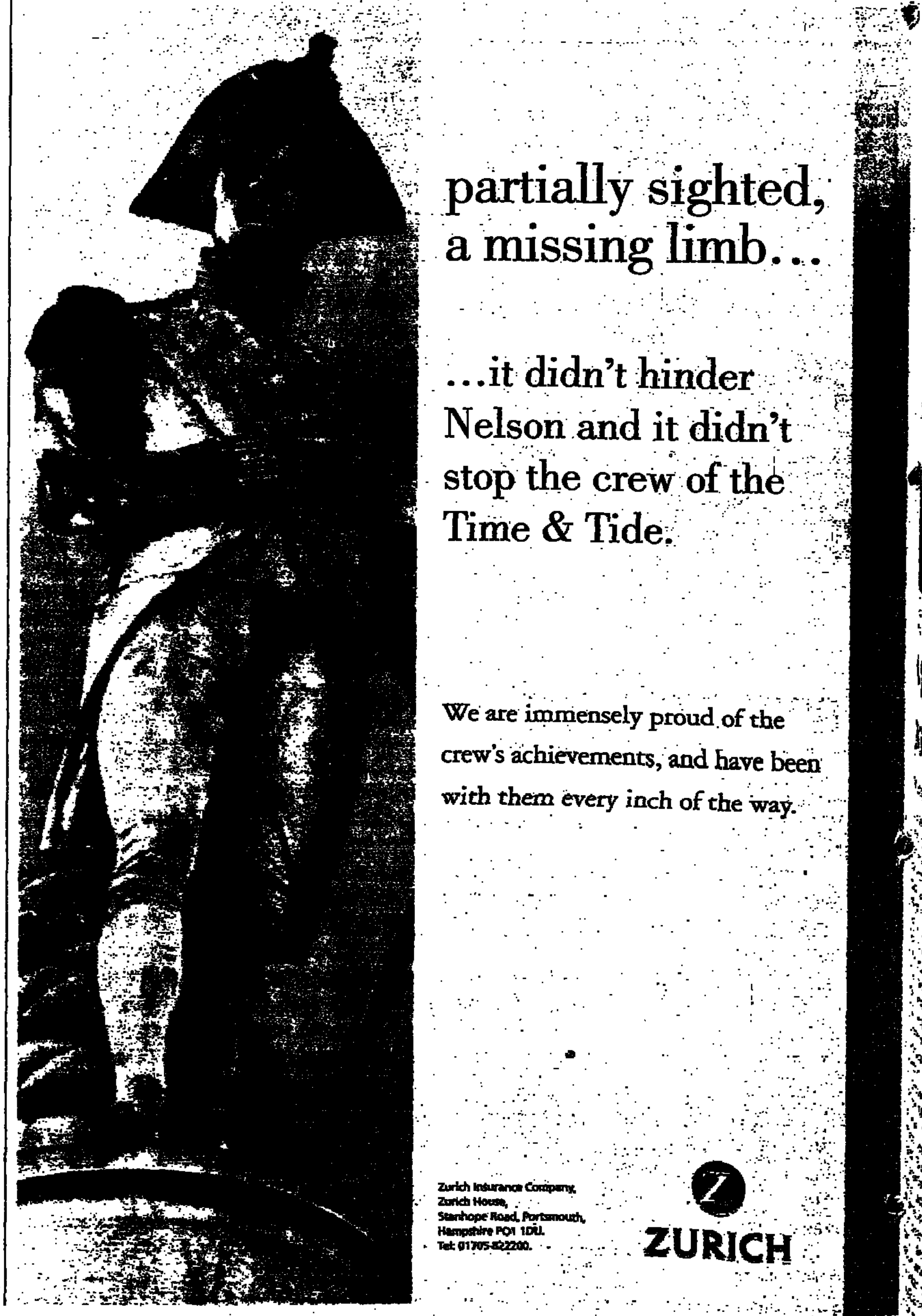

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Jospin will tax rich to gain EMU entry

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRANCE'S Socialist-led Government will demand billions of francs in extra taxes from its richest companies and citizens next week to bring down the budget deficit and ensure the country qualifies for the European economic and monetary union.

Officials at the Finance Ministry have confirmed government plans to tax the wealthy to bring the level of France's deficit closer to 3 per cent, the theoretical Maastricht ceiling for admission to the single currency.

The finalised tax plans will be announced on Monday, when the Government unveils an audit of state finances expected to show that, without further measures, France is on target for a deficit of between 3.6 and 3.7 per cent. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, will lay blame for the overshoot on the previous centre-right Government.

Revenue-raising measures are expected to include a 10 per cent increase in the tax on corporate profits to more than 40 per cent, a rise in employer social security payments and a blow to the wealthy, probably by reversing a 6 per cent income-tax cut for high-earners brought in under the last administration.

Concern that business will bear the brunt of the new tax burden pushed down stocks by nearly 3 per cent on the Paris Bourse yesterday, and the anxious mood was reflected by a cartoon in *Le Monde* showing a cigar-smoking businessman rushing to conceal a chart showing his profits.

By reducing the deficit by about 0.3 per cent, or some Fr30 billion (about £3 billion), the Government is aiming for a 1997 deficit of 3.3 per cent in the hope that this will still be sufficient to ensure admission to EMU.

French ministers have carefully paved the way for Monday's moves, insisting that the Maastricht criteria for EMU should be interpreted "flexibly" and emphasising that the 3 per cent limit is unattainable this year.

The choice of tax rises, to be debated in an extraordinary parliamentary session in September, represents the most delicate task for the Government so far, which must balance campaign promises to avoid further austerity while meeting its treaty commitments without stifling French economic growth.

The Government may also seek contributions from state-owned companies and make additional, unspecified spending cuts.

Small and medium-sized companies are likely to escape tax increases, and the Government insists the new levies will be structured to avoid discouraging investment. Analysts, however, say that any rises in corporate tax and social security charges, which are already weighty, are likely to put off foreign companies contemplating investment in France.

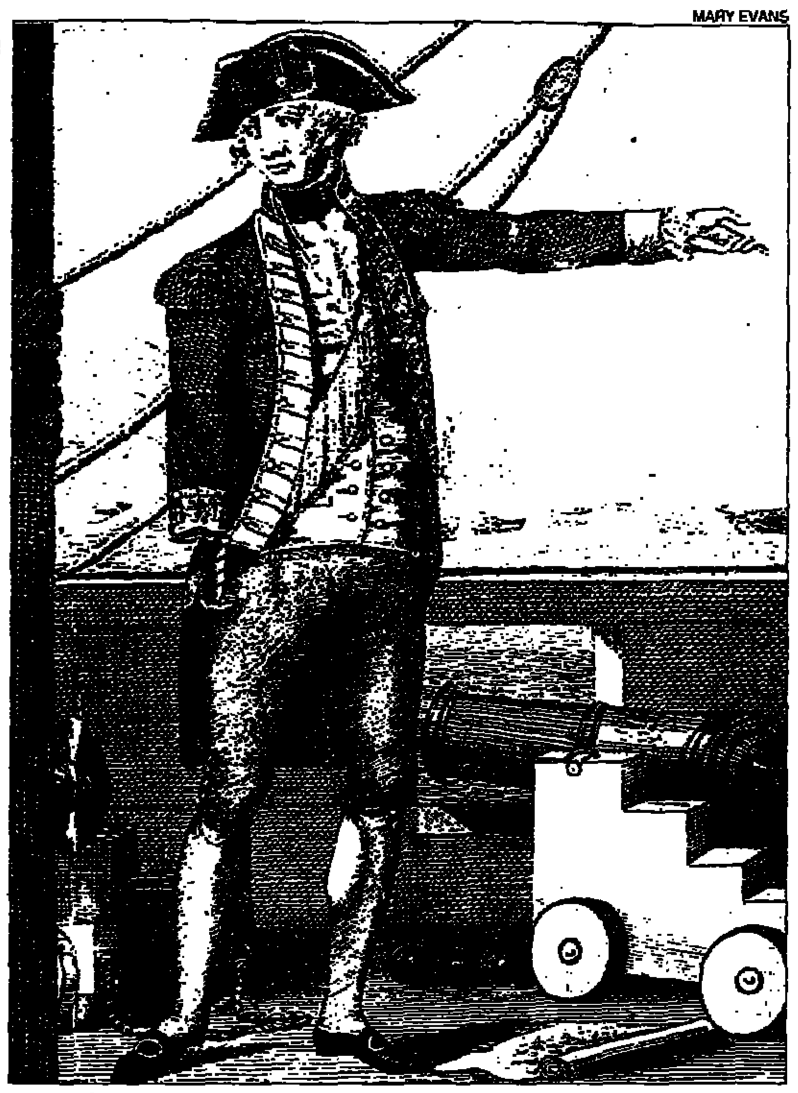
The Government, however, says that despite slow overall growth, large French companies performed well last year and can easily absorb higher tax rates.

Claude Allègre, the Education Minister, observed that "it's normal that those who make big profits in difficult times should contribute more than others".

Farmers call cuts protest

Paris: Two of France's largest agricultural unions yesterday called on farmers to mobilise next week to protest against a controversial plan by the European Commission to cut farm subsidies. Union chiefs did not say what form the protests would take, but will be petitioning regional officials and politicians on Monday. ***(Reuter)***

MARY EVANS



Admiral Nelson: sent cheese and ale after raid that cost him his arm

Nelson's loss recalled with gift of cheese

From Giles Tremlett in Madrid

THE Royal Navy is to commemorate the anniversary of the loss of Nelson's arm — and one of his worst military mistakes — by presenting a Stilton cheese to the Spanish Governor of Tenerife, in the Canaries.

The blue Stilton is to be handed over next week during the bicentenary celebrations of what the Spanish island considers to be its finest hour: when it repelled three attacks by Nelson on the port of Santa Cruz during the Napoleonic Wars.

Nelson was shot in the arm as he scrambled on to the Santa Cruz quay from his cutter. He had ignored his army commanders' advice not to try a third attack. The Spanish garrison was ready for the "surprise" night raid and repelled the attackers, with great loss of life.

The Spanish, however, showed magnanimity. They ferried the injured British soldiers and sailors back to their ships and invited the officers to dine. Nelson, who was having his arm tended to, was unable to attend the dinner. But he sent ale and cheese to his Spanish counterpart, General Gutiérrez.

Nelson's commander-in-chief, Earl St Vincent, later praised his attempts: "You and your companions have certainly deserved success by the greatest degree of heroism and perseverance that was ever exhibited."

The latest cheese is to be handed over by Commander Nick Stanley of the frigate *HMS Grafton*, which is taking an *HMS Victory* cutter replica to the Santa Cruz celebrations.

Russia sets sights on joining EU

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

RUSSIA is striving to join the European Union and hopes to qualify in due course, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, said yesterday.

He was speaking on a visit to the European Commission in Brussels three days after it started the machinery for taking in Central Europe's former communist states. Mr Chernomyrdin said full membership of the EU was the ultimate aim of Russia's reforms.

He emphasised, however, that Russia was not yet ready. "It is not easy. We are realists. We are busy solving our own problems to become a worthy partner ... We want to be full partners on this Continent."

Speaking after talks with Jacques Santer, the Commission President, Mr Chernomyrdin was amplifying a statement on Russia's EU aspirations made last year by President Yeltsin. The President's remark that Russia wanted to join the EU was not deemed serious at the time, but it unsettled member governments which are already worried about the economic and political costs of fulfilling their pledge to embrace the former Soviet bloc states of Central Europe.

The Commission this week decided that Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic should all be invited to start accession talks with a view to membership in about 2002. Mr Chernomyrdin said Russia did not expect special compensation from the EU to balance its lost income from trade with its former allies.

While welcoming Moscow's eagerness to join the Union, EU officials played down the prospect of a Russian application in the next few years. "They are nowhere near being ready to integrate their economy with ours, let along signing on to all that that implies in political union," one diplomat said.

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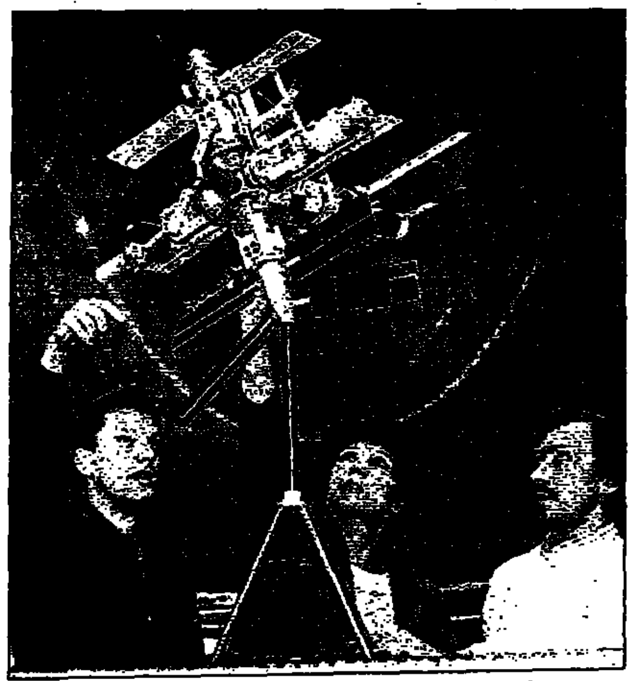

Scientists at Mission Control Centre near Moscow using a model of Mir to discuss its problems

Mir 'safe' after power restored

From Robin Lodge at Flight Control Centre

REPAIRS to Mir, the stricken space station, may be put off until the arrival of a replacement crew next month, Russian officials said yesterday.

Mir lost power and alignment after a crew member accidentally disconnected a cable to the main computer earlier this week. But all power was restored to the main block yesterday after Flight Engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin worked all night to rectify the error.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, said that Mir was "safe". The space mission should continue, he added. But the delay may mean aborting plans for Mr Lazutkin and Michael Foale, the British-born Nasa physicist on board, to enter the station's depressurised Spektr module and reconnect cables to its solar panels.

Sergei Krikalyov, deputy director of the mission, said it was very likely that this would be left to the relief crew. Flight Controller Vladimir Solovyov expressed concern that stress could make the present crew "less attentive, precise or fast during repairs".

The crew have been ordered to rest for two days. They have been working much of the time in total darkness, with all but essential systems closed down.

If the operation is delayed, it will almost certainly mean a postponement of the mission by Leopold Eyharts, the French astronaut with the new crew. Alain Fournier-Sicre, head of the European Space Agency's mission in Russia, said M Eyharts would be unable to start his scientific projects on Mir until the repairs were completed.

☐ Pasadena: Nasa engineers have solved the software problem that necessitated resets of the overloaded Mars Pathfinder computer and slowed transmission of pictures and other data. A software change will be transmitted today, the project manager, said.

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Versace's mourners screened in manhunt

From Tom Rhodes in South Beach, Miami

HUNDREDS of mourners were screened by undercover agents at a Miami Beach memorial for Gianni Versace yesterday as police said the "cocky" alleged killer may have returned to revel in the scene of his crime.

Convinced that Andrew Cunanan, 27, the gay gigolo and chief suspect in the Versace murder, might make another unexpected appearance at his memorial, officers walked up and down the aisles of St Patrick's Catholic Church throughout the ceremony. They inspected the faces of every male dignitary, businessman, model and fashion industry consultant and scanned the crowds listening to the ceremony by loudspeaker outside.

The service, held at the neo-Renaissance building once frequented by Al Capone, the Chicago gangster, was a final mark of respect from the South Beach community for the man who had helped to create an American Riviera and inspired a vibrant international hotspot in this once dilapidated Deco District of Miami.

Many mourners wore Versace black, his characteristic cloth, as a symbolic tribute. Outside the church, police officers handed out pictures of Cunanan as local authorities continued to investigate tips and leads, including possible links between the alleged serial killer and the most recent murder of a Cuban-born doctor in Miami Springs.

Police sniffer dogs had recognised the scent they picked up on clothes apparently left by the suspect near Versace's beachfront mansion as the same smell discovered on the passenger seat of a black BMW owned by Silvio Alfonso, the dead doctor.

In an apparent volte-face yesterday, officials denied earlier reports that they had ruled out any connection between the two murders and said the inquiry was still continuing. Alfonso, 44, described as a known homosexual, had been trussed with designer ties and strangled with a braided belt in the bedroom of his bungalow. He was lying face down with underwear and trousers around his ankles.

Federal and local authorities have widened their net to investigate the murders of other homosexual men along the East Coast since April and are also analysing another death on South Beach in May, days after Cunanan is said to have killed a previous victim in New Jersey. They remain convinced that Cunanan, a master of disguise, may be feeding his ego by remaining in South Florida to watch continuous media coverage of the nationwide manhunt.

John Coffey, of the Florida Law Enforcement Department, said his men were scanning television pictures of crowds near the bloody steps of the palazzo on Ocean Drive shortly after Versace was killed by two bullets in the back of the head.

"We don't know if he did return to the scene after the killing," said Mr Coffey, "but people that know the subject tell us that it would not be abnormal for him to do that. He is quite a cocky guy."

Miami police said Cunanan had made several mistakes since he allegedly shot Versace last Tuesday morning. They have now established that the shots that killed three of Cunanan's alleged victims were all fired by the same weapon, a .40 calibre pistol. Versace was killed by a similar weapon but investigators have not yet linked the bullets or shell casings from the specific handgun to his murder.

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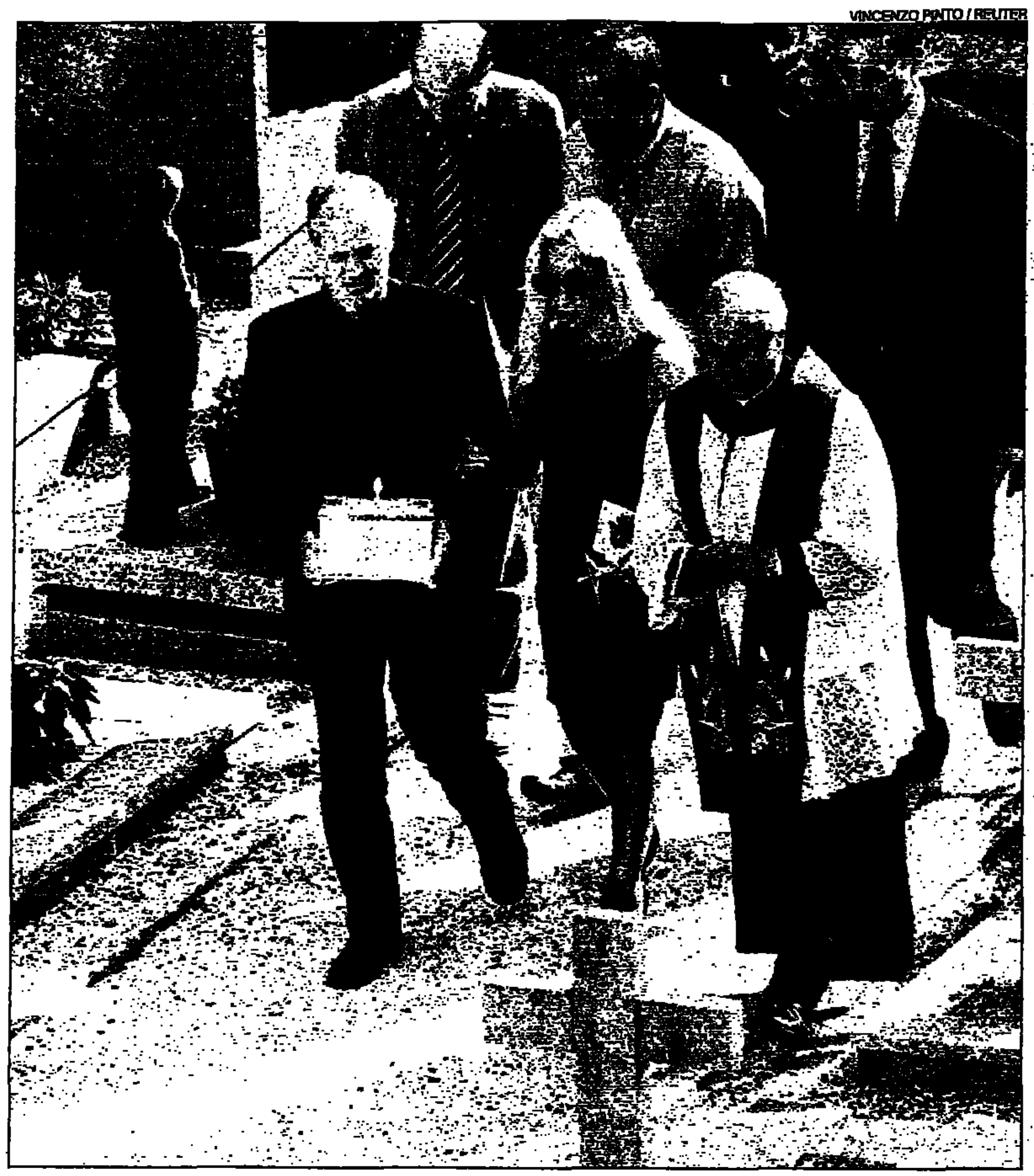
VINCENZO PINTO / REUTER



Santo Versace carries his brother's ashes, accompanied by their sister, Donatella, in Moltrasio yesterday

Fifth Avenue finds solace in buying frenzy

From Tunku Varadarajan in New York

AMERICAN department stores and fashion shops are playing host to a Versace "feeding frenzy".

Since the murder of the Italian couturier, buyers have converged on every conceivable outlet where his fashion designs might be on sale, queueing, jostling and lunging for any article of clothing that bears the distinctive Versace Medusa-head logo.

"Everyone, it seems, wants a piece of the dead man," said a salesgirl at Bloomingdales, New York's finest department store. "It's like the rush for bits of the Berlin Wall, only that was a time of celebration and this is really kind of spooky."

"We've never seen anything quite like this," said Frank Doroff, the store's vice-president. The demand for Versace's 150 jeans, 1,000 women's handbags, and even the Versace five-piece china set, was "five times over what it was a year ago".

Yesterday, long queues of people formed outside many shops on Fifth Avenue, many of whom were clearly not the Versace "type". Stocky housewives, office men on their way to work and tourists in Bermuda shorts mingled with aspiring models and lean, rangy Lotharios, all in search of something — anything — by the late designer. "His clothes are flying off the hangers," said a shopper at Bergdorf Goodman, clutching a Versace man's suit as if afraid it would be yanked from her.

Dawn Mello, the store's president, said: "We are selling everything we have in Versace. The dinner wear is sold out. And people are calling in from all over the country, as far as California, wanting specific items from the last collection."

Before his death, Versace had worked on the Spring/-Summer 1998 collection, which hits the market this autumn. After that, there will be no more new designs, so buyers are desperate to acquire the last vestiges of a rapidly dwindling supply.

Kelly Patrick, a spokeswoman for Neiman Marcus, said: "In our San Francisco store, women's leisure wear has almost sold out. And the volume has been even greater in Florida, for obvious reasons."

Valerie Steele, the chief curator for the museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, said: "It's a known fact that when an artist or painter dies, the value of their art goes up. Since Versace died at the height of his prowess, one could expect that the value of his one-of-a-kind couture will go up."

Designers accused of sham as family grieves

From John Phillips in Rome

THE ashes of designer Gianni Versace were returned to Italy yesterday and buried at a private ceremony on the shore of Lake Como where he had a villa.

But the ceremony was overshadowed by controversy in the fashion world over whether Versace's colleagues really mourned his death.

At a simple family service attended by a dozen mourners, the urn containing the designer's ashes was buried in the village of Moltrasio. Earlier it arrived by air near the northern city of Bergamo, accompanied by Versace's sister, Donatella, and their brother, Santo, on a private jet from Miami.

"May the Lord help us to understand what has befallen you," Father Bartolomeo Franzi, the parish priest, told mourners gathered at a small chapel in the cemetery.

Four limousines were parked at the wrought-iron gates as Donatella, wearing a close-fitting black dress and sunglasses, led her children, Allegra and Daniel, past security guards, two paramilitary carabinieri and a few bystanders. Celestino Villa, the Mayor, said that a special chapel would be built as a permanent resting place for Versace's ashes and that a Mass would be celebrated in his memory in Milan cathedral on Tuesday.

"The urn will remain here with us on Lake Como. These were his wishes," Signor Villa said. He denied reports that Versace had already built a chapel inside the villa to be used after his death.

In Milan, the office of the Archbishop said it was deciding where to hold the Mass. Church sources said that the cathedral was the most likely location.

Shopkeepers in Moltrasio lowered their shutters yesterday. "This is due recognition for a great person who put the image of Italy in the window attracting the lights of world attention," said Luciano Tessaro, chairman of the Italian Association of Window Dressers.

However, a leading fashion writer started a furious controversy yesterday by accusing Versace's fellow designers of shedding crocodile tears for him. Adriana Mulassano, in a letter to the Rome daily *La Repubblica*, accused Italy's fashion moguls of "intellectual poverty ... a lack of culture and values", and said the designers had contrived "the most degrading spectacle that the world of fashion could give of itself". She said Italian designers had "jumped on the victory chariot so that each of them could take two minutes of glory". Mulassano added that the solidarity apparently shown in expressions of sadness by the top designers was false. "The stylists do not love each other," she said.

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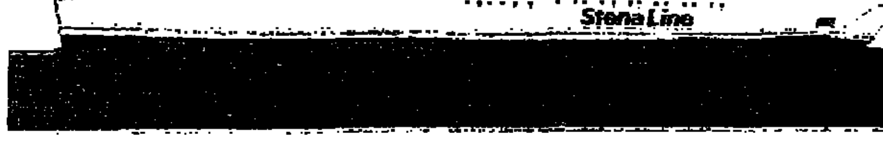

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Gore looks short of big ideas for long campaign

AMERICAN AGENDA

BRONWEN MADDOX

AL GORE has begun his race for the White House. For the past two weeks, with President Clinton playing the statesman in foreign capitals, the Vice-President has held court to the cameras at home, congratulating Nasa on the Mars landing and announcing tax cuts and new rules on air pollution.

This month, Mr Clinton has endorsed Mr Gore, earlier and more openly than any President has done for a would-be successor in 150 years. All the same, the Gore campaign is looking rattled. To win in November 2000, Mr Gore must defeat rivals for the Democratic nomination by the spring of that year, then beat the Republican candidate in the final high-spending marathon. The first objective is now giving him trouble.

His main rival is likely to be Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, although Paul Wellstone, a senator from Minnesota, is often cited as a dark horse.

Accused as much as Mr Gore of blandness, Mr Gephardt has fashioned himself as the champion of the outsider, the unions, liberals and protectionists who were ditched by Mr Clinton in his determination to make the Democrats electable. By contrast, Mr Gore has the weight of the presidency behind him. Mr Clinton has given him White House resources, and the Vice-President has begun tramping around the states that are critical in the primary elections for the party nomination. Mr Clinton told *NBC News* that Mr Gore "has been unquestionably the most effective Vice-President in history. And if the people decide to make him President, they won't be disappointed."

Mr Gore's worry is that he is now so associated with Mr Clinton's conservative philosophy that the liberal wing of the party and Mr Gephardt could give him a nasty shock. The best strategy to win the nomination is to promise something for every part of the party, as Mr Clinton so successfully did in 1992. But the best strategy for a Democratic President faced with a Republican Congress is to move to the centre, as Mr Clinton has in his second term. Mr Gore's association with that conservatism will be a help in fighting a Republican candidate — but could prove a fatal handicap in the primaries.

In the next few months, it is likely to become clearer that Mr Clinton's interests are at odds with Mr Gore's, and that his support is worth less than it seems. With an eye on the history books, the President wants to get as much legislation through Congress as possible. In his desire to get a renewal of "fast-track authority", which would give him the power to get trade agreements through Congress without amendment, he is likely to offend many of the groups Mr Gore is courting.

Those strategic problems compound Mr Gore's shortcomings. He remains uncharismatic. Mr Clinton handles big themes of hope, courage and the future of Europe with authority. Mr Gore sounds more confident with technical subjects, and on the environment — his favourite — gives an impression of wistful impotence.

According to aides, he tries to relax, but the body language remains rigid. On a platform recently, he was left looking awkward when a Polish woman due to give a speech about her past dissolved into tears. In China, he toasted Tiananmen Square generals with champagne for fear of causing offence by refusing the glass.

Mr Gore remains the favourite to win the Democratic nomination and, on many counts, to be the next President. But it is hardly a foregone conclusion.

Leading article, page 21

Gingrich faces revolt

Washington: Newt Gingrich's grasp on the House speakership was slipping last night after a week of rebellion and turmoil threatened to rip apart the Republicans in Congress (Bronwen Maddox writes).

In the latest move, one of Mr Gingrich's most trusted protégés was forced to resign after his role in a plot to overthrow the Speaker was exposed. Yesterday there were rumours that Bill Paxon would now become the leading candidate to replace Mr Gingrich. Mr Paxon, who was chairman of the Republican "leadership", a post invented for him by Mr Gingrich, was one of four senior Republicans in the House of Representatives now revealed to have taken part in backroom cabals to discuss ousting Mr Gingrich. The others were all elected to their positions by other Congressmen and cannot be sacked by Mr Gingrich.

For months there has been rising anger that Republican leaders have failed to capitalise on the party's control of Congress.

Man who brought Internet to its knees

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE CRASH of the Internet on Thursday was the fault of one man who is now "being dealt with very appropriately" it emerged yesterday.

Chaos reigned after a computer operator failed to heed automatic alarms going off at 2.30am on Thursday.

The glitch was traced to Network Solutions Inc, a firm in the Washington suburbs that keeps more than a million Internet addresses on an electronic master list. David Graves, the firm's Internet business manager, said: "What happened wasn't a technical problem. It was a human problem."

The executives refused to name the culprit but said they would make the "graveyard shift" a two-person job in future.

Every night Network Solutions shares its updated files with ten large Internet computers around the world, known as root servers. These are the Internet's traffic police, handling thousands of address requests each second and sending messages off in the right direction.

With the technician not reacting to alarms, corrupted files went out to the root servers, causing a cascade of bad addresses to spread throughout the global network. Internet users began receiving error messages that Web sites and e-mail addresses they used frequently no longer existed. Network Solutions sent out corrected files four hours after the garbling began, but it took many more hours for all the inaccuracies to be purged.

The crash was bad news for the firm, already under assault for having an exclusive agreement to register addresses for the US National Science Foundation, an early sponsor of the Internet. The contract expires next year.

DENIS FARRELL, AP

Max returning to Johannesburg Zoo after hospital treatment for gunshot wounds

Robber shot in gorilla warfare

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A GORILLA named Max is recovering from gunshot wounds at Johannesburg Zoo after trying to grab an armed suspect who jumped into his enclosure while fleeing from police. The suspect was also shot.

The man, who had broken into a nearby home, scaled a moat at the zoo and jumped into Max's enclosure. The gorilla grappled with the man, apparently in defence of his territory and his mate, Lisa. The robber fired twice at Max, one bullet lodging in his shoulder, the second passing through his neck.

The gorilla, who is 26 years old, also attacked two policemen who entered the enclosure, biting one on the buttocks and hitting the other. A third policemen was injured when he twisted his ankle trying to get out of the enclosure. In the fracas, police shot and injured the robber. Both the robber and the gorilla were taken to Millpark Hospital in Johannesburg. Later officials loaded the gorilla onto a truck serving as an animal ambulance and Max went back to the zoo, his huge paw engulfing the vet's hand he was holding.

Max, who is from the former Zaire, was later described as cantankerous by zoo officials. They added that Lisa was "very distressed".

The robber and police were still being treated.

WORLD SUMMARY

Go-ahead for hotel in Golan

Jerusalem: In a gesture of solidarity with the 15,000 Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights, Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, has given the go-ahead for the building of a 220-room hotel (Christopher Walker writes).

The announcement, certain to infuriate Syria which is demanding a total Israeli withdrawal as a necessary condition of peace, came as the Prime Minister toured the strategic plateau as part of celebrations to mark the thirtieth anniversary of its capture.

Ali kit for sale

New York: An extensive collection of boxing gloves, trunks, robes and letters which once belonged to Muhammad Ali will be up for auction in October, Christie's has announced here (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The sale, which will take place in Los Angeles, will include the letter Ali wrote in 1966 to the draft board, refusing to fight in Vietnam. The memorabilia is owned by a boxing fan from Long Island.

Police powers

Hong Kong: Guidelines empowering police to ban protests here drew criticism from civil rights groups. The administration granted police wide discretionary powers to ban protests or political groups on "national security" grounds. This was defined as threatening China's security, promoting independence for Tibet or Taiwan, or causing public disturbance. *(Reuter)*

Torture proved

Rome: An official inquiry has confirmed that Italian peacekeeping soldiers tortured Somalis in the country in 1993, the head of the investigation was reported as saying. "Certain episodes have been proved, even though at the beginning there were attempts to hide them." Ettore Gallo said. *(AFP)*

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'Dream girl' nurtures vision of revolution

ROME FILE
by RICHARD OWEN

WHEN Giovanna Melandri talks about the "information revolution" in Italy, she is not just talking about the Internet and digital television. "It's a question of changing Italy itself," she says. "We are way, way behind. The communications revolution links in to all the other things we are trying to do — decentralising the appalling Italian bureaucracy, devolving more powers to the regions, empowering the citizen. We are changing the landscape."

Such sweeping declarations are startling from a woman of only 35 who does not yet hold ministerial office. But as spokeswoman on communications for the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the core of Italy's centre-left Government — she is becoming one of the most photographed and talked about women in Italy. To her embarrassment, a recent survey put her near the top of the average Italian male's list of "dream girls".

Signora Melandri bristles at any suggestion that her high profile has to do with her trim good looks or air of cosmopolitan chic. "I am not a model, I am a representative of the people. There's a whole new generation of Italians who have a global, rather than provincial, outlook."

She clearly comes from a different planet than the old-style Communist Party, from which the PDS evolved in 1991. She was born in New York, where her father was the correspondent for RAI (Italian state-run television) during the Kennedy era. She speaks fluent English, lives with a wealthy and successful lawyer, and moves in a circle of writers, actors, tycoons, fashion designers and glitterati — "as much socialite as socialist" as one of her friends puts it. She buzzes around town on a motorscooter, and spends weekends at a villa on the fashionable Tuscan coast.

Yet she managed to charm the tough working class residents of Magliana, an area of rundown tower blocks which is the heart of her Rome constituency. They made her their MP in 1994, at a time when the political tide was running to the Right. She was re-elected in April last year.

"I had a much harder time campaigning in the better-off areas," she says. "I'm not a champagne socialist. I don't even drink champagne. What does worry me is that a new class division is developing, between those who own and use new media technology and those who do not. The informed and the uninformed, as well as the rich and the poor.

"I see three areas the Left has to tackle now that it is in power in Italy, Britain and France," she says. "Reforming the welfare state, privatising state-run industries and promoting the concept of citizenship — of belonging." But her main aim is to "secure a place for Italy in the global communications market" through privatising the cumbersome Italian telecommunications system and deregulating television.

IMAGO 2000

Giovanna Melandri says Italy is way behind in the use of information technology

Zoo trails in restoration league

THE restoration of the Villa Borghese gardens continues apace as part of Rome's millennial preparations. The 17th century Villa Borghese itself, with restored masterpieces by Canova, Titian and Caravaggio, has been under siege by visitors since it reopened earlier this month after a 13-year closure. Other great Renaissance buildings in the park, such as the Villa Giulia, have also been restored.

But the park also houses one of Rome's eyesores — the cramped and old-fashioned Municipal Zoo, which has woefully inadequate facilities for its 1,100 caged animals. The zoo's lack of resources was highlighted recently when vandals climbed over the fence at night and started attacking a family of four tapirs with iron bars and a billiard cue. One tapir, Alfiero, was killed, and another, Filippo, was badly injured. Claudio Manicastri, the zoo manager, said the zoo only had three guards at night, and their patrol car had broken down.

Guides are deaf to the rewriting of history

GUIDES on the Palatine Hill above the Forum are still pointing out the remains of an Iron Age hut as the "dwelling" of Romulus, Rome's legendary founder, despite a new theory that the city has its origins not on any of its seven hills but down by the Tiber.

Professor Mario Attilio Levi, a noted archaeologist now in his nineties, says his conclusion after a lifetime studying the origins of Rome is that its founders had first gathered near Tiber Island, on a broad bend of the river below Capitol Hill.

In ancient times the small island lay opposite Rome's main river port, where salt (essential for food preservation) was brought up from the coastal port at Ostia.

Professor Levi suggests that Tiber salt merchants, rather than shepherds on the hills, formed the first Roman community. He believes they may have traded with the Sabines (with whom they inter-married, hence the legend of the Rape) and the Etruscans.

Guides on the Palatine will have none of it: Romulus founded Rome in the eighth century BC after killing his brother Remus, they say, and that is that.

Nevertheless, the few modern residents of Tiber Island are delighted. The island houses the hospital and church of San Bartolomeo, built on the site of the Temple of Aesculapius, and a restaurant, Sora Lella, named after a popular Italian actress, which is doing even better business than usual.

'Little Fish' murdered prince to wriggle free from the palace hook

Prince Thitipand and Mom Chalasai, the child bride who admitted killing him

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND
IN BANGKOK

THE last chapter in a fairytale romance between a Thai prince, known as the "Frog", and the young "Little Fish" he adopted to become his child bride, ended at Bangkok police headquarters yesterday as the girl who was reared for the prince's bed confessed to his murder.

The princess, Chalasai Yugala, 25, sobbed as she admitted lacing her prince's coffee with a flea killer in an attempt to keep her lover, a chestnut seller she had met outside the palace walls.

Prince Thitipand Yugala, 60, a wealthy socialite and cousin of King Bhumipol Adulyadej, died in agony after ten days in August 1995. A post-mortem examination showed that he had died of poisoning. Police were unable to pin the murder on her and she went on to become a chat-show celebrity, talking about her rags-to-riches life.

This week, however, after being ditched by her lover, she broke down in remorse and confessed. Yesterday she was paraded in front of Snoh Thiengthong, the Interior Minister, who recounted her confession. Mom Chalasai told police: "I did it to escape from the palace. There was nobody else involved."

After the murder the chestnut seller who pedalled his mobile stall around the palace was arrested in connection with the murder, but was released.

"Little Fish" (*Luuk Pla* in Thai) was a four-year-old orphan abandoned at birth. She was adopted under royal patronage to give her a chance in life. She was educated at the royal palace and it was there, at the age of 11, that she caught the eye of Prince Yugala. By the age of 14 she is said to have become the prince's mistress and she went to live at his palace and look after his children from a former wife. The affair was torrid. The prince showered her with expensive gifts including a Ferrari, a private plane and he taught her everything, including the art of lovemaking.

But "Little Fish" was a free spirit. While the prince regarded her as one of his private possessions, she often sought the company of people her own age, slipping out of the palace at night to frequent smart discos and trendy nightspots.

In 1995 the couple married and at the wedding "Frog" embraced his wife with a kiss. On top the wedding cake were models of a frog and fish kissing. The words on their wedding invitation read: "Age is in the mind. But love will always be in the heart."

The prince was quoted as saying: "My wife does not need to be beautiful. Nor does she need to be a good cook. But she has to be great in bed. Luuk Pla is my No 1 in this regard." Unfortunately for the heartbroken prince his young wife, who indeed was no beauty, was also the No 1 for other people. Just before the wedding she had run off with a Swedish tourist to the Thai resort of Pattaya and the humiliated but smitten prince advertised in newspapers offering money for her return.

He got her back, but her wandering continued. She used to hang out with young crowds in Bangkok shopping malls and had a passionate affair with the chestnut seller, Uthet Chupwa, with whom she hoped to elope.

The young bride may have had strong personal reasons for wanting to leave the prince. His punishments for her misdemeanours were severe. Prince Yugala boasted to friends that after she ran off with the Swedish tourist, "I bound and strapped her up and hung her from a hook in my bedroom for three days for humiliating me."

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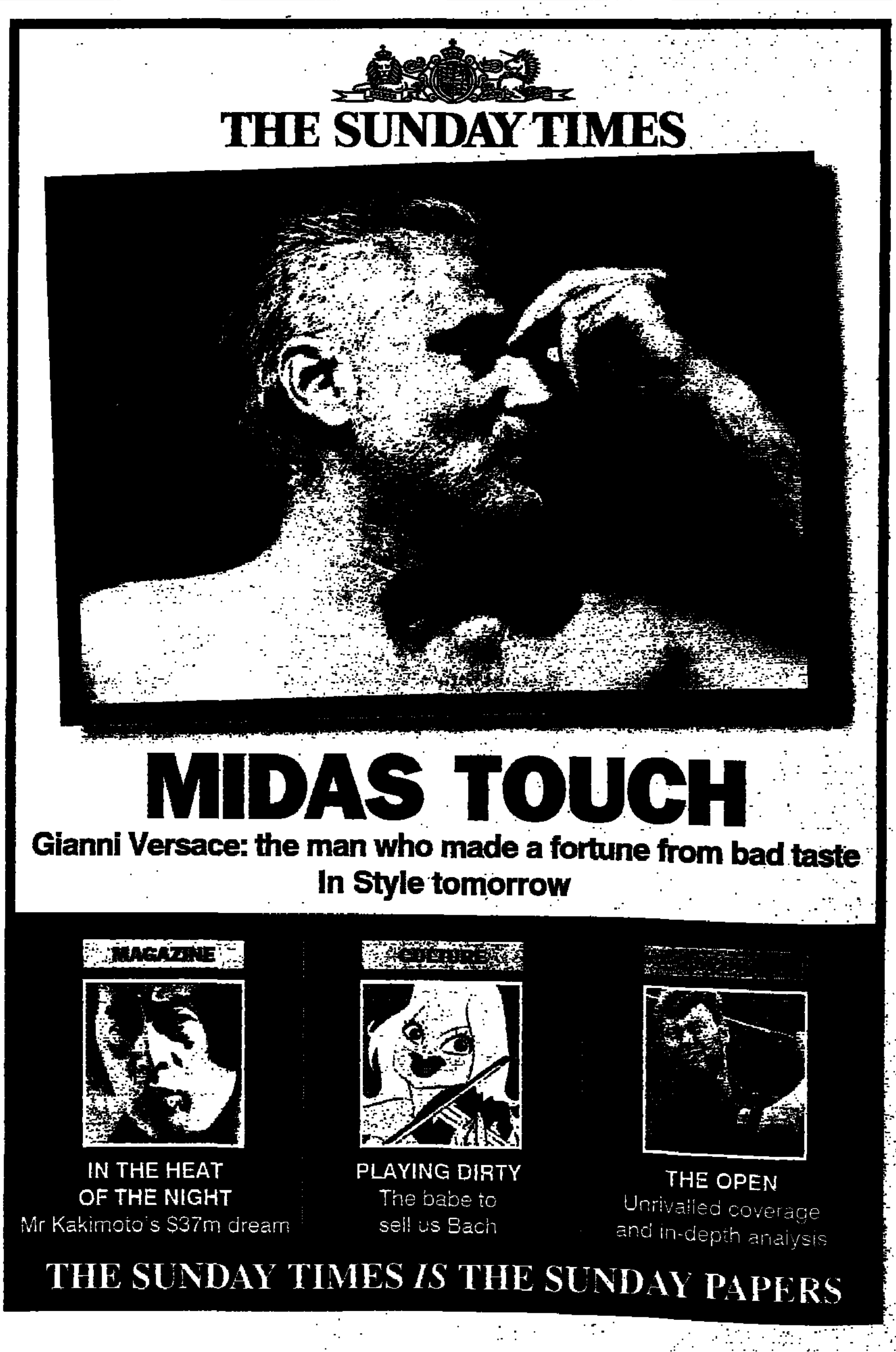

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Radio 3 falls for populist baloney

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Only last September life must have seemed sweet in that tiny eyrie of the BBC where men and women still talk excitedly of Baroque recorder sonatas and the glories of middle-period Stockhausen. Radio 3 was celebrating its half-century. Humphrey Carpenter had just published a jolly book about its first 50 years, and its subtitle — "The Envy of the World" — was being smugly bandied about; even by those top executives in John Birt's New Model BBC who wouldn't be able to find Radio 3 on the dial if you paid them £150,000 (which is just about what you *are* paying them).

Radio 3 had been through testing times. But its future now seemed assured. In the previous four years its canny Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, had sacrificed a few vestal virgins on the altar of accessibility: announcers who sounded too tweedy or twee; producers whose passions were judged to be dangerously intellectual for the 1990s airwaves. In their place came cheery chappies like former King's Singer Brian Kay, who were thought to "put a smile" on the stony face of the classics.

But there had been old-style achievements as well: the "Fairest Isle" year of British music; the huge "Sounding the Century" project which will broadcast every significant note written in the past 100 years. All this seemed to refute fears that Radio 3 was being dumbed down to meet the middlebrow challenge of Classic FM.

Oh dear. Nine months on, a storm is breaking that could tear Radio 3 apart. And it comes just as the network should be buzzing. Last night the Proms opened. That guarantees Radio 3 weeks of blissfully respectable ratings. Heads should be held high. Instead, paranoia and loathing stalk Broadcasting House. "I can't talk to you; they would trace it back," a Radio 3 producer croaked down the blower to me this week.

What's occurring? Well, earlier this month a meeting of BBC big cheeses decided that Radio 3 is still not getting through to the new, youthful audience believed to be ripe for seduction by Schütz and Schnittke. So radical changes have been proposed. Radio 3's music department will be slashed; 10 out of the 25 producers could go. At a stroke that will destroy the greatest concentration of classical-music expertise in the country.

Instead, many more programmes will be put out to independent producers. The style will be relentlessly matey. Presenters who really know about music will increasingly be replaced by "celebs". The names of Barry Humphries and Prunella Scales are whispered, plus some Woganesque geezer from Irish TV who will be handed the entire run of evening drivetime programmes.

Saturday morning *Record Review* — probably the most useful programme on radio for newcomers to classical music — will be squashed to make way for more chat-and-toons pap. There is even mention of some ghastly computerised playlist to ensure that enough hummable Mozart is pumped out. The changes will be phased in as soon as the Proms are over. By next April a very different Radio 3 will be on air.

Of course you shouldn't judge a company's proposals by how much internal strife they stir up. Turkeys don't vote for Christmas. "Producer Choice" was introduced throughout the BBC to break up the cosy cartels inside various departments, and there is no reason why Radio 3 producers should be exempt from external competition — even if "external competition" in this case often means ex-Radio 3 producers who left in the last shake-up.

Yet if the BBC is really concerned about getting value out of its £30 million music budget, it is hard to understand why it continues to maintain five full-time orchestras — four of them in cities (London, Glasgow, Manchester) that have excellent independent orchestras. This pointless duplication of resources is a scandalous waste of money that could be channelled into much more imaginative music-making.

It also does the BBC's image no good. What a modern broadcasting organisation needs (if it needs orchestras at all) is one truly world-class flagship ensemble, not five workaday bands. But sorting out this anachronistic mess would mean taking on the Musicians Union, and nobody at the BBC has the bottle for that. Far easier to terrorise a few producers.

What lies behind Radio 3's new panic? The answer is Classic FM. With 4.5 million listeners the commercial tune-monger has acquired an audience more than twice as big as Radio 3's, from a standing start just five years ago. But is that Radio 3's problem? There is reason to believe that Classic FM has pinched far more of its typical listeners — disgracefully described by Alan Bennett as "Saga louts" — from Radios 2 and 4.

Of course Radio 3 was right to modernise when Classic FM came along. There's no point in simply handing listeners to the commercial opposition. But it can now venture no further down Populist Road or Bland Alley without losing its *raison d'être*. And the need for a sane, cultured horizon-widening antidote to the ephemeral jabber of our cluttered airwaves has never been greater.

Providing that quality is what made Radio 3 the "envy of the world" in the first place. If the BBC governors don't see the reason to uphold Radio 3's core values now — when the BBC is behaving more crassly than the tackiest commercial broadcaster in so many areas — they shouldn't be BBC governors. Those who fear that the ethos of public-service broadcasting is fast disappearing down the plug'ole will be keeping a close eye on Radio 3 in the coming months.

MARILYN KINGWILL

There is a spin doctor in the house: the sinister George McAllister and Sam Halpenny in Simon Blake's insubstantial reworking of *The Prince*

Machiavillainy rules

THEATRE
The Prince
Young Vic Studio

When Tony, Gordon and the other chaps plotted their election tactics, what was the precise input of Peter Mandelson? If Simon Blake is to be credited, he glided round some Islington living-room saying things like "men must be pampered or crushed because they can get revenge for small injuries", "cruelty is used well when it is inflicted once and for all" and "men worry less about doing injury to a prince who makes himself loved than one who is feared". Having delivered himself of a dozen such quotes and won new Labour the election, he then sprouted a pair of black wings and disappeared into the night.

All right, Blake sets his play in an unnamed principality, some time in the future and, all right, he never invokes Mandelson's name. The man whom a worried campaign manager (Sam Halpenny) finds one night on a city street, and transforms into *his* candidate's chief adviser, is called Nicholas Maitland and is meant to represent the *realpolitik* of Niccolò Machiavelli. But there are enough nudges and hints in the play to suggest that Blake wants us to think of the spin doctors and pragmatists of Britain 1997 as well as those of the coming century.

It is a bold idea, but does it come off? No, not altogether. The acting of the Changeinspeak Company is uneven and so, I fear, is the writing. Perhaps Blake should not have chosen to stage his own script. Another director might have trimmed the more verbose bits, although I am not sure he would have succeeded in eliminating the awkwardness accompanying what, let's concede, can also be lively, believable dialogue.

The plot involves the packaging of a candidate. Can Robert Linden's Matthew Wynan, with his considerable charisma and Kennedy-like hair, outpoll governor Bateman, under whom the principality has degenerated into a blend of the complacently comfy and the slummy and crime-ridden? At first it seems not. Although Blake never gets deep into policy detail, the suggestion is that Wynan is too idealistic and left-leaning. Enter Maitland, Machiavelli or Mandelson in the black-jacketed, unsmiling form of George McAllister.

His function is to push Matthew towards the political centre, make him more aggressive, and ensure his reputation stays intact even if it means killing a couple of blackmailers and propelling a radical aide to what may and may not be suicide. Sometimes he sounds as contemporary as you and me. Sometimes he spouts extracts from *The Prince*, not always relevantly. I could see why he banged on about ends justifying means, but not why he uttered Machiavellian warnings about flatterers when there were no obvious flatterers around.

There are several times when the intrusion of Machiavelli seems forced. After all, the Blairs and Clintons face more restraints than did Lorenzo the Magnificent. More mundane problems include a soft, bland performance from McAllister, a soap-opera subplot involving an affair between political combatants, mime effects too cursory to make any impact, and the preposterous feathers that appear on Maitland's back at the end. Still, who can argue with the basic thesis, which is that cynicism, callousness and compromise continue to rule our world? Not me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERTS: Festival premieres; keyboard virtuosity

Mafia rage sits oddly in English spa towns

New Music
Cheltenham

SURELY, there's something missing from Howard Skempton's new Clarinet Quintet. It has what the composer describes as a prelude, an interlude and postlude but the two main sections — a second movement so significant that it needs a prelude to prepare for it and an interlude to recover from it, and a third movement with so many implications that it needs a postlude to draw the conclusions from it — are missing. The three short movements which are there are attractively crafted, and one looks forward to hearing them in the context of a work with something to say.

Skempton's Clarinet Quintet might not have seemed so trivial if the **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** had presented it in a different programme. But on both its first performance at Leamington and on this repeat performance at the Cheltenham Festival it had the misfortune to be linked with Vic Hoyland's *Crazy Rosa*.

Occupying the other extreme in terms of engagement, *Crazy Rosa* is so expressive of political anger and personal grief that it is almost embarrassing to hear it in a concert hall. Its mainly spoken Dario Fo text and its uncompromising instrumental commentary require some kind of theatrical setting. Though bravely uttered in an Italian accent by Angela Tunstall and dramatically accompanied by the BCMG under the direction of John Carewe, its rage against the Sicilian Mafia can have seemed no more relevant to the audience in Leamington Spa than it did to that in Cheltenham Town Hall.

No one would describe Colin Matthews's *Elegiac Chaconne* as either minimal or trivial. But it too needs a context, and the **Nash Ensemble** put it in a programme position where too much was expected of this short tribute to Berthold Goldschmidt. As such, it is a resourceful exercise in mainly dark scoring (for alto flute, bass clarinet, viola, cello and piano).

That first performance and a delightful account by Philippa Davies and Ian Brown of Lennox Berkeley's Flute Sonatina were the most convincing items in a concert which needed a cohesive string quartet to provide the textural basis for Mozart's Horn Quintet and Brahms's Clarinet Quintet.

GERALD LARNER

Patricians on the keys

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TWO pianists at the Wigmore Hall this week gave memorable recitals in which they excelled with Rachmaninov. His music is always audience-friendly, but what made these performances special was the unusually refined, almost patrician approach to the composer of both interpreters.

First up on the Steinway was **Eva-Maria Alexandre**, London-based but perhaps better known in America, where she studied. Her generous programme ranged widely, from Scarlatti and Haydn, played with clarity but also "traditional" Romantic weight, via a tempestuous Chopin Sonata No 2 to colourful, extrovert Messiaen (*Regard de l'Esprit de joie*).

All these pieces showed Alexandre to be a thoughtful musician, with qualities that set her apart from many overcharged players of Rachmaninov. She brought noble, dusky refinement instead of salon-like sentimentality to his Op 3 *Melody*. In the Sonata No 2, Alexandre juggled the dark foreboding, dreaminess and fiery brilliance with flair.

By contrast, **Steven Osborne**'s recital featured the later, American-period *Variations on a Theme of Corelli*, and he took its even greater demands in his stride. The work is more austere, less soft-centred than earlier Rachmaninov, and Osborne judged all its sonorities and textures superlatively well, as he did in two of the Op 23 Preludes.

Osborne, fresh from winning joint first prize in the Naumburg International Competition in New York, put together a programme full of fascinating connections. He gave an affectionate, fluid account of Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, whose dance movements balanced very neatly the Bach French Suite in G (BWV 816) he had played earlier with such vitality. And the Ravel was alluded to in the title of Jonathan Harvey's 1994 *Tombeau de Messiaen*, an arresting dialogue for piano and tape.

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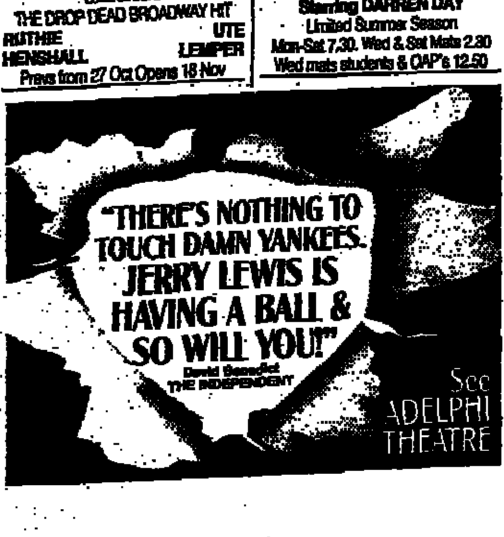

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We will like to be inside the Bankside

Nicholas Serota offers a private view of the Tate's two new London galleries

As the Tate celebrates its centenary on Monday, we look forward to the most spectacular development since its foundation: the opening of two new Tate galleries in London. The Tate Gallery of Modern Art, which will house the international collection (from 1900 to the present day), is due to open in the transformed Bankside Power Station in 2000. The following year sees the launch of the Tate Gallery of British Art, housing works by British artists from 1500 in a substantially redeveloped Millbank building.

Dividing the collections between "modern" and "British" is very much in keeping with the Tate's history. The vision of its founder, Henry Tate, was to create a National Gallery of British Art (its official name when it opened at Millbank in 1897); but 20 years later, in 1917, the gallery was given the added task of forming the country's international collection of modern art. There was a dynamic interplay between British and foreign art.

Some people have asked whether this special Tate "feel" will be diluted when the collections are divided. I hope that it will be further strengthened. The relationship between the two new galleries in London will be vigorous, with, for example, modern British works being exchangeable between them. Furthermore, there will be more space to show key works in two changing panoramas of British and 20th-century art.

Millbank's new role is of great significance. It will allow us to nurture and further stimulate appreciation of both historic and contemporary British artists. In 1990, for instance, we brought together a large body of work by Stanley Spencer. This display had such an impact that when it was dispersed after a year, visitors complained: previously, few had remarked on the absence of Stanley Spencer. That same display resulted in requests from museums abroad to borrow Spencer paintings, and a major exhibition of his work is to open in Washington next year. The Tate Gallery of British Art will offer a superb opportunity to set the record straight on our national achievement in the visual arts.

> London is alone in lacking a national gallery of modern art

London is the only major capital city not yet to have our own national gallery of modern art. In Paris and New York such museums are signs of a serious, national appreciation of 20th-century culture and are key tourist attractions. The opening of the Tate at Bankside will put us on a level with other cities.

I would like to argue that a visit to the Tate Gallery of British Art will be a rich, inspiring and welcoming experience. That sense of being in the presence both of history and of living art will be given a new vitality by new conjunctions of artists working in Britain — artists as diverse as Holbein and Hockney, Hogarth, and Gilbert and George. Occasionally we shall also give a sense of the visual traditions in Britain before the Renaissance, especially where such achievements have been important for later artists. The Tate will pose such provocative questions as: how do we define "Britishness" in art and culture?

The galleries will also be used in different ways. Entering the Duveen Sculpture Galleries at Millbank may give a serene feeling of light and airiness; however, there will also be unexpectedly crowded, less brightly lit rooms where, for example, groups of drawings and watercolours will be closely hung. Our aim is to recognise the importance of watercolour and drawing to the British tradition. Moreover we wish to show sculpture from all periods.

Imagine a whole room of Gainsborough or Stubbs, and how much heightened our appreciation of those artists will be when many of their works are visible together. There are also less prominent artists who should become better known: Thomas Jones and Allan Ramsay from the 18th century, or Wyndham Lewis and Edward Burra from the 20th. At the same time, the gallery will meet the demands of regular audiences to see, again and again, such loved artists as Constable and Blake, both in the collections and as the subjects of special exhibitions.

Exhibitions at Millbank will be devoted to individual British artists from the 16th century onwards, or perhaps to a single aspect of an artist's work. Foreign artists who have had an impact on, or been affected by, British art could also be the subject of shows at the Tate Gallery of British Art, as might foreign artists who have lived in Britain. Britishness will be explored in all its facets.

Regional British schools, both historic and contemporary, will be featured occasionally, and there will be a place, too, for looking at movements from abroad which have influenced or been influenced by British artists. There will also be themed exhibitions, drawing together the work of different British artists and, sometimes, their relevant foreign counterparts.

Meanwhile, to enter the Turbine Hall of the cathedral-like Bankside Power Station, a great industrial building in the heart of London, in its new role as the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, will be an amazing experience. The scale of the building, plus the imaginative transformation of it by the Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron, will bring in visitors who may never before have been to the Tate. They will not be disappointed.

The Bankside galleries, however, will be contemplative, quiet spaces. Visitors will be able to engage intimately with individual works. It is hoped that there will be something to delight, stimulate and occasionally irritate everyone.

Bankside displays will anchor international art in an essentially British environment. Visitors will expect our interpretation of the 20th century to be distinct from other European museums. Thus, British 20th-century artists will be prominent in this international context as well at Millbank. Special exhibitions will be devoted to all aspects of international 20th-century and later art. International art movements will be highlighted, as will individuals and groups of artists (including British artists), while exhibitions will explore the relationship between painting, sculpture, photography, film and architecture.

We expect that more than two million people a year will visit each gallery and that, encouraged by improved transport links between the two locations — including special buses and, we hope, riverboats — they will want to see both museums, as well as our sister galleries: the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery on Trafalgar Square. Such physical and intellectual connections will be important since, together, the two Tate galleries in London promise one of the most dynamic museum experiences in the world.

The author is Director of the Tate Gallery. Mr Tate's Gallery *will be shown on BBC2 on Monday at 7.40pm.*

The test of devolution is inward investment, not a Celtic vision of Europe, says **Ted Rowlands**

Wales cannot afford an assembly of zealots

As one of the minority of 25 per cent who voted for Welsh devolution in 1979, I am not surprised that the old arguments have reopened so quickly. They reveal the tension not only within the Welsh Labour Party but among the Welsh public. Even the most favourable opinion polls reveal a high percentage of don't knows. Only when the don't knows are "squeezed", to use the pollsters phrase, does one arrive at a yes support of 43 per cent. The number of those bitterly opposed has fallen significantly, but ambivalence and scepticism remain. Why?

Much to the chagrin of the zealots involved in the yes campaign, a large proportion of the Welsh public does not buy the grandiose claims made for a Welsh Assembly, do not identify with their concept of Welsh nationhood, nor with the notion of a Wales repositioned as a small nation or region in Europe.

Indeed, I suspect the majority do not define their Welshness in institutional terms at all. In the absence of any meaningful institutions since the Act of Union in 1536, we define our Welshness in linguistic and cultural terms. It has been shaped by historic economic experience. That certainly is the case of the valley communities. They fear devolution as a nationalist's agenda.

We do not share a Wales in Europe vision based on some romantic view of a special affinity between the Welsh and other Celtic and regional cultures. I find no evidence that we feel a greater affinity to the Basques, the Bretons orthe Bavarians, than to the people of Birmingham. The yes zealots, in fact, despise the enduring relationship of Wales in Britain.

However, to bolster the new view of Wales in Europe, exaggerated claims are made for a Welsh assembly. It will become the new economic powerhouse and give us an especially powerful voice in the corridors of the Brussels Commission. Further, unless we have one, the Scots and even the English regions will steal a march over us, corner the inward investment and a disproportionate amount of European Union funds. Without an assembly, Wales will be ignored.

To give weight to these arguments, the economic success of some of Europe's regions has been because of their elected regional assemblies. But there is no conclusive research proving a causal connection between elected assemblies and economic growth. Some regions with assemblies have grown, some have not. The case for democracy, frankly, has never been an economic one. Democracies are capable of making terrible economic mistakes. Autocracies are sometimes economically successful.

In the communities I represent, few believe that a Welsh Assembly will transform our economic life, or believe that, had there been one, our pits would not have closed. However, an assembly, we are told, will at least give us a greater voice in Europe. The Irish experience is much quoted. These claims are given some credence, deliberately so by the European Commission, which fosters the notion of a Europe of the regions to bypass the Council of Ministers.

But power resides with the Council of Ministers. We all might admire the skills of an Irish Government whose ministers on the Council have extracted a high price for their support. That is not the role that either a Welsh Assembly or Scottish Parliament will be able to play. They won't have a veto. They will be left to scratch around for a fitting proportion of what is likely to be a diminishing regional fund competing with the needs of the new central European member states. What hope will there be of an enhanced regional budget when national governments will be painfully cutting their own expenditure to meet the monetary union targets?

The future of Wales cannot be dependent on some illusory hope of pulling harder at the purse strings of a smaller European purse. Where Wales in Europe does matter is in terms of inward investment, due to its access to the European common market. In this respect, without an assembly, we have been remarkably successful, enjoying twice our share of inward investments.

This Welsh success story has been achieved by the pragmatic and skilful combination of the powers and influence of the Secretary of State alongside the Welsh Development Agency in partnership with local authorities. So is there a case for Welsh devolution?

Yes — but it is fundamentally a pragmatic democratic one. The Welsh Office has accrued greater powers and a budget of more than £6 billion. A host of quangos has grown to deliver services on an all-Wales basis.

One of the fundamental tasks of representative bodies is to allocate, order priorities and scrutinise public expenditure. Westminster no longer does it properly. A large democratic deficit has grown. An assembly would remove that.

To do so does not require the power of taxation. Taxation powers of the kind proposed for Scotland constitute tokenism of the worst kind. They are meaningless when one realises that 88 per cent of all Welsh local government is financed from British taxation and borrowing. Taxation receipts raised in Wales fall short of expenditure by more than £5 billion — by the Maastricht criteria a borrowing requirement of 15 per cent of GDP.

An elected assembly fulfilling a traditional role of allocating and scrutinising, bridging the democratic deficit, replacing the unrepresentative quangos, run along lean and puritanical lines could appeal to the Welsh electorate. We, however, don't need an assembly to redefine our Welshness. We know we are Welsh — and shall remain so — with or without one.

The author is MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (Labour).

A very private consort

The Prince should marry his mistress. But the birthday party is a mistake

Simon Jenkins

In 1975 the Prince and Camilla could meet discreetly. Now they are caught in the flashlight's glare

"I am all for press freedom," says a character by Tom Stoppard. "It's the journalists I can't stand."

I am sometimes asked how a specific public figure should deal with the press. The question is easy and the answer universal. Don't. The question is invariably repeated. The press is so unfair, so inaccurate, so persistent. Surely a "good" journalist wants to tell the truth? Perhaps, I reply, but his version, not yours. Yet he only wants an interview and seems so nice. We need publicity for a charity, a book, a constituency, a marriage. Can it really be bad? Worse than bad, I say. Good publicity is in Heaven. The press wants bad publicity. Do not touch the press. This advice is strangely unwelcome. Publicity is now the narcotic of public life. All my career I have watched politicians and others drink it, inhale it, inject it, gorge on it. The more they get, the more they crave. It undermines their mental health, bloats their egos and wrecks the lives of their loved ones. Yet every interview promises a better trip, every photo opportunity will yield a Nuremberg rally. Disaster follows disaster. Misery is piled on misery. Yet still the addict craves the drug.

Thus my heart sank recently when I was asked what Camilla Parker Bowles might do to "set the record straight" on her public image. My informant told me that she was most upset by her treatment at the hands of the media. What could she do? Perhaps a discreet interview, a meeting with an editor, a staged photograph?

I was aghast. Mrs Parker Bowles had for some time been patron saint of Church of the Justly Private. She had obeyed its sacred rites. To the best of my knowledge, she had never sought an inch of publicity. She refused so much as a smile at an alien camera. There were no interviews, no photocalls, no "authorised friends". I had seen no "Day in the Life of", no "My Interiors", no preening self-regard disguised as a charity plug. There was just a name, a rumoured relationship and a fuzzy photograph from a distance. Mrs Parker Bowles's friendship with Prince Charles was a private matter, which she (though not he) had never brought into the public domain. If anyone was entitled to privacy, she was.

Surely she was not about to blow it. The press, I cried, is not to be "handled". Consort with the press and you tumble through the gates of Purgatory, to be consumed by reptiles, fire and torment. The only honest press agent was Hieronymus Bosch. The Prince of Wales dabbled in this witchcraft and burnt not only his fingers but hands and arms up to the elbow. Press coverage is always assymetrical. The public figure craves what the press will never give, a sauna of public appreciation. The press wants what makes the public figure miserable, at best a one-night stand, at worst gang rape. Mrs Parker Bowles still has her dignity and public respect intact. Asking me to suggest a "good" journalist is like asking Cleopatra to suggest a good asp. This weekend sees the much-bruited 50th birthday party at Highgrove of the lady in question. The event is accompanied by the usual cast of merry pundits.

Professors, prelates, politicians and biographers queue up at the BBC to air their view on monarchy, church, state and people. Like disputants in Henry VIII's "Great Matter", they consult ancient tomes and fondle antique words such as adulterer, atonement, mistress, disestablishment, living in sin. They compete to use "morganatic" in a soundbite. Wolsey and Cranmer stir in their graves. Deep in the vaults of the Temple, learned friends rustle through papers and start clocks. Fat times are ahead for the cats.

I notice that the only people for whom this subject generates the slightest concern, as opposed to interest, are over 50. Ask a younger person about Prince Charles and marriage and the response is a shrug. So he married the wrong girl yonks ago. So they got divorced. So he wants to marry someone else he loves. Fine. It happens all the time. They say he may one day be King, a job for which he has pre-qualified. Fine again. The current wife of a King is known as a Queen, to love and support him in his work. Good luck to them both. May they be happy. What's the problem? What's the Test score?

Even for the old guard, the Great Matter has become strangely circular. The King of England is head of a "Catholic" Church which, unlike the Roman Catholic Church, claims not to "recognise" divorce — like the judge who claimed not to recognise the Beatles. The Church cannot approve, let alone sanctify, the remarriage of its head. That is surely a problem for the Church of England, not the nation. As to whether the Church of England needs royal patronage more than royal patronage needs the Church, I happily leave it to others. If Gladstone could contemplate disestablishment, it cannot be too much for Tony Blair.

Yet a change in the marital status of a future head of state does require a change in the law, as well as the approval of the existing head of state. This is archaic. Only the most grotesque organisations examine spouses during job selection. Hereditary jobs are peculiar since offspring have the benefit of a closed shop for the succession. With genetic engineering still in its infancy, blood might be said to matter. But this assumes that physical or mental prowess are crucial to monarchy. Those days are over. Nor is heredity likely to be an issue with Mrs Parker Bowles. If the law needs to be changed, change it. If Britain's "evolutionary" constitution needs to evolve, evolve it.

This must be the least dignified and significant debate in British politics. It can bring no particular joy to the public, and only anguish to those personally involved. Sensible people, certainly the overwhelming majority of young people, accept that the Prince and his friend should be able to marry. No public good lies in keeping them apart.

Yet pundits think of ever more devious reasons for obstructing them. It is said that public opinion will not accept Mrs Parker Bowles as Queen. It is true that heads of state need some popular legitimacy where they are unelected. Politicians have voters, teachers have pupils, sellers have markets. Royalty has no product, and no mirror in which to see itself reflected. Beyond a circle of sycophantic courtiers and admiring crowds, there stands only the press and the public. But public opinion has a habit of accepting a *fait accompli*. Recent polls have shown a steady swing towards a marriage of Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles. Last week's MORI poll for *The Mail on Sunday* showed 60 per cent in favour of the couple "staying together". Fifty per cent accepted that he could still be King, and a falling proportion (though still high at 71 per cent) accepted that Mrs Parker Bowles might be Queen. This shift in opinion has taken place against a background of churlish media comment and a blackout on publicity.

The one thing that will wreck this satisfactory move towards the inevitable is if someone gets Mrs Parker Bowles mainlining on publicity. Consultants are already circling round her court. Stoats and weasels are shoving seductive offers under Gloucestershire doors. The ghastly panjandrum is on the move. If the present 50th birthday celebrations are intended as a prelude to a public relations offensive, I shudder to think what may ensue.

The press is a lousy proxy for public approval. What the public will most readily accept is the sight of a new and happy royal couple, and public duties conscientiously performed.

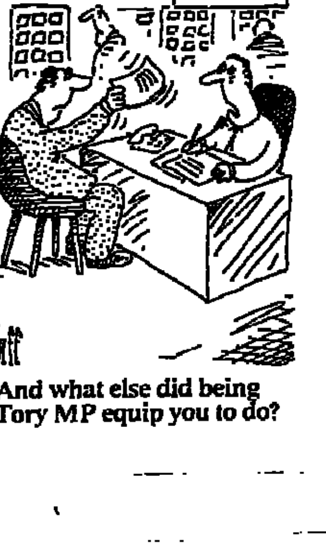
THE TIMES DIARY

Prom queens

TOMORROW night's programme at the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall will see the resolution either way of a dispute between the Proms authorities and the performing orchestra, a visiting troupe from Germany. The altercation began when the Ensemble Modern from Frankfurt, who will be playing a controversial programme of Frank Zappa and Steve Reich numbers, made the unprecedented demand that the Albert Hall organ be tuned to 442Hz rather than the 440Hz, to which it has been tuned since its installation in 1871.

Not so fast, said Proms organisers. The only way to achieve the desired 442Hz is by raising the temperature of the hall to 25C. "We have been in touch with the BBC weather office and it will be touch and go whether we can achieve the right temperature," said one of the organisers. "In the end, it all depends on how heated the audience gets. If we cannot raise the temperature, they will just have to play out of tune."

Asked why the German orchestra is unable to tune its instruments to the organ rather than vice versa, the organisers said: "Either it is to do with the fixed pitch of the percussion, or else they are just being awkward." The Ensemble Modern's controversial demands are matched only by their choice of music. One piece by the 20th-century composer Lou Harrison, *Concerto for Organ and Percussion*, involves the organist striking the organ keys with a mallet. Not what Sir Henry Wood would call high culture.



And what else did being a Tory MP equip you to do?

- *Yesterday saw President Nelson Mandela turn 79 with a tribute from the financially afflicted South African Airways printed in most of the main newspapers. Under a picture of a jumbo jet are the instructions: "Hold newspaper at arm's length in front of you, make appropriate jet noises, tilt towards your face and lift skywards, keep lifting over your head and gasp in awe. Repeat 79 times."*

Nice work

SEVEN previously unpublished manuscripts by Agatha Christie have been unearthed by her daughter and grandson. The short stories, all discovered on the pages of lost literary magazines of the 1920s, such as *The Sketch* and *The Strand*, are to be published in one volume called *While the Light Lasts and Other Stories* by HarperCollins next month.

David Bawn, the Editor at HarperCollins behind the forthcoming publication, is palpitating: "Anything new by Agatha Christie is of great interest. These ones are slightly different to her normal stuff inasmuch as they are not crime stories so much as romantic stories or stories based on the supernatural."

Stephen Prichard, Agatha Christie's grandson, said: "We knew they existed, it was simply a question of finding the magazines in which the stories had been originally published. There are some interesting techniques which I am sure the experts will leap on."

Fishy tale

CUSTOMERS at the new Rainforest Café in London, which promises to "re-create the rainforest through a combination of live and animated tropical flora and fauna", have been surprised to see tropical fish floating to the top of their tank, dead. The café has a menagerie of live macaws and parrots, simulated, animatronic elephants and a talking banyan tree called Tracy, all happily tolerated by the fish.

Lucky find: Agatha Christie

A waiter at the restaurant explained: "There is a problem with the plastic coral at the bottom of the tank. Some of the fish died and when they put some more in, they died too. An investigator is coming in to take a look this week."

Hair, hair

THURSDAY night saw the annual party thrown by Phillip Oppenheim, the former Tory MP for Amber Valley, an all-round bloke. Accompanied by his Border collie, Vom, he entertained the likes of Michael Portillo, the unforgivable Jerry Hayes, numerous Commons secretaries and a smattering of ex-weather girls at his Chelsea home. Missing from his bathroom were the usual array of hair-restorer products. Having given up on rethatching, he is ploughing his money into facial scrubs instead.

New venture: Oppenheim

Having recovered from this revelation, guests spoke of Oppenheim's various new projects. He has just about finished his novel — not that Salman Rushdie need lose any sleep — and is to embark on a magazine project with Adrian Lithgow, *The Mail on Sunday's* saurian former political correspondent. Oppenheim says this is at an early stage, but the talk is that it will be a sort of *Loaded* magazine for over-35s.

P·H·S

صورة من الأصل

PEACE ON WHOSE TERMS?

An IRA ceasefire does not end the need for vigilance

Gerry Adams' call on the IRA to institute a ceasefire offers hope to Northern Ireland and creates a formidable challenge for politicians across these islands. The peace process, fragile after a fraught marching season, has entered a new phase. There are opportunities to be grasped but there are also grave potential dangers. The silencing of republican guns would bring welcome, and overdue, respite for Ulster's people but the need for vigilance has not disappeared. The last IRA ceasefire was cynical, tactical and short-lived. Even as republicans protested their peaceful credentials mortars were tested and bombs primed. There is no evidence that Sinn Fein or the IRA have changed since then; their commitment to a united Ireland is unswerving. Only last week a republican bomb with the potential to create horrendous loss of life was discovered in Londonderry.

What has changed is the composition, and attitude of the British and Irish Governments. Both have been assiduous in their attention to republican demands. It is no coincidence that the statement from Gerry Adams follows an agreement between London and Dublin which would allow terrorists to enter talks, and remain at the table, without having to surrender a single bullet. If the IRA is serious about a permanent renunciation of violence and willing to accept the rules of democracy then an historic settlement could be possible which might give Ulster the peace and stability its people deserve. If, however, republicans engage in another tactical suspension and are determined to see Northern Ireland wrenched out of the United Kingdom then the terms on which they have been wooed will prove perilous.

It may seem pessimistic to the point of perversity to enter caveats when hearts yearn to hope. It would, however, be worse than naive to forget at this moment all that has been learnt about the IRA during the murderous years of their long war. Clear-sightedness about their aims and strategy is a precondition of progress. Republicans have been heartened by the election in Dublin of a Government determined to champion nationalist interests rather than approach the peace process even-handedly. They still enjoy powerful support in the United States and know the SDLP leadership will do everything in its power to get them, and keep them, in talks. The assembly of this pan-nationalist front gives republicans political muscle and the deal on decommissioning means they do not have to barter away weapons to exercise it. Additionally, republicans believe the election in London of a Government with a large majority makes marginalisng Unionist voices more easy. From where Sinn Fein sits it does not believe it has to budge. After all, it has not had to move until now.

The Government's stated determination that negotiations on Ulster's future will be time-limited may appear to put pressure on republicans to bend lest others reach a consensus uncongenial to them. Sinn Fein will, however, be inclined to believe the opposite. Republicans hope that if no agreement is reached around the talks table next May then the two Governments will impose a "solution" over the parties' heads. Since that is what Sinn Fein wants, there is hardly an incentive to reach agreement.

That "solution", which Republicans envisage as a staging post on the path to Ulster's ejection from the Union, may be put to the people in a referendum. Sinn Fein is, however, hopeful that in any referendum the British Government will act as an advocate for a settlement opposed by the representatives of those who wish to stay British. The prospect of thus provoking Unionist discontent, and potentially encouraging loyalist violence, will only delight a movement which has spent 25 years trying to destabilise the Province. Republicans may be engaging in wishful thinking, but given the way in which the peace process has been shaped to their needs so far their expectations are far from irrational. Their mountain of weapons has forced ministers to come to them, and that mountain will remain.

The weeks ahead will require resolution from the British Government if the power of the pan-nationalist front is not to shape a solution for Northern Ireland contrary to the interests, and wishes, of the Unionist majority. Optimists believe that, if in talks, republicans would find themselves constrained by the need to accept the principle of consent and must learn to live with the Union, albeit a modernised one. Republicans have, however, shown no desire so far to live with anything other than the certainty of their cause and an armalite within reach. A new ceasefire changes much, but not that.

CLINTON FOR GORE

White House endorsement is a mixed electoral blessing

With a mere 1,207 days remaining, the contest for the American presidential election is already under way. Were it not for the inconvenience of the American Constitution — which limits the chief executive to two terms — President Clinton would doubtless seek re-election himself. As he cannot, he has decided instead to designate his successor. As we report today, through policy, personnel, and personal intervention, Mr Clinton is actively assisting the ambitions of Albert Gore. This breaks with long-established precedents that presidents remain aloof from such matters until after their party has selected a candidate.

Mr Gore must also be somewhat uncertain about the value of this early endorsement. Mr Clinton's staunch support is not an undiluted blessing. Presidential enthusiasm is hardly essential to Mr Gore's prospects. An incumbent Vice-President possesses formidable assets in the American electoral process. These include high name recognition, the ability to raise the $20 million or more required to run for the office seriously, and considerable influence over the rules of the race itself through control over the party organisation.

These advantages have allowed three postwar Vice-Presidents — Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey and George Bush — to capture their party's standard despite subdued support from the President whom they served. If Mr Clinton said absolutely nothing, Mr Gore would still be the likely Democratic contender.

Such a period of silence might assist the Vice-President. As Mr Gore knows better than most, the Clinton presidency has been a roller coaster experience. For the past six months, the President has been relatively popular: some 60 per cent of Americans register their backing for him in opinion polls. But that standing is strongly linked to, and contingent upon, the present robust health of the American economy. Even now, at the peak of his appeal, a clear majority of Americans believe that Mr Clinton's legacy will be the scandals associated with him in power rather than policy accomplishments.

Association with this President may not seem as attractive in the year 2000 as it is today. Mr Gore's reputation for personal integrity has largely enabled him to remain immune from the political impact of the President's private indiscretions. Neither Whitewater nor alleged sexual harassment can possibly be tied to him. But he has been implicated in the set of campaign finance scandals that have hampered the Administration since the onset of its second term. The current Senate investigation into the links between the Democratic Party and numerous dubious Asian political contributors may yet produce more evidence that embarrasses Mr Gore.

Even if the President remains relatively popular, the Vice-President still needs to prove himself as an independent politician. It is unlikely that the American people will simply be seeking a surrogate for a third Clinton term. George Bush never fully escaped from the shadows of Ronald Reagan. Mr Clinton cuts a less substantial figure but Mr Gore is nevertheless inescapably linked to him. That could yet prove a liability that denies him the chance to take the oath of office in his own right.

PENNIES FROM PLUVIUS

Now is the season for discount tents

For those Britons about to set off across the Channel in search of sun, fun and as much lager as their bulging purses, weighed down by the fruits of a soaring pound, will buy, the Met Office has an unwelcome message. The British summer has reached the Continent before the island's natives. The weather forecast for most of Europe is rain, followed by more rain. It has been falling in torrents in Poland and the Czech Republic, causing catastrophic flooding. Rain is spreading west, has already drenched Austria, and is threatening to wash out the British political establishment in Tuscany and the Dordogne.

To those of us on this drizzly isle, the forecast is unusual; rain advancing from the east is not the experience of seasoned country folk. The giant vortex whirling the black clouds around the edge of the continent may pressage something even more ominous, however: a global disruption of weather patterns that brings downpours to the deserts and dries up the rainforests. It all seems to be the fault of an unruly South American child: El Niño, the tepid current that flows up the coast of Peru and Ecuador every Christmas. When it overheats, everything goes haywire. The winds blowing the warm air west slacken, the oceans around Australia cool, the eastern Pacific heats up, the rains that should fall in the Philippines fall in Latin America and the weather all the way up to Malibu destroys villas, fish stocks, crops and national economies.

When this child of the sea is temperamental, the world suffers. Last time El Niño threw a tantrum, in 1982, it caused damage estimated at $13 billion worldwide, and set back the economy of Peru for a decade.

The rain now falling in Bohemia may, of course, have nothing to do with the Pacific. All manner of other reasons have been advanced, ranging from the volcanic explosion on Montserrat to global warming and world climatic change. Meteorologists will argue while the raindrops keep falling, but ignore the real reason. British holidaymakers have rarely had so much money to spend abroad. They are all ready to flaunt almighty sterling on the sun-soaked Mediterranean. That is the very moment for Pluvius to spoil our fun.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Public attitudes to lowering homosexual age of consent

From Miss Elizabeth Smith

Sir, Roger Scruton's intelligent and discerning comments about the ethical issues involved in the sexual conduct of modern teenagers ("Our sexual supermarket", July 15) convey a message which is too important to be confined to the pages of *The Times*.

Liberal attitudes to sex *are* responsible for causing confusion in the minds of young people about what constitutes a moral sexual relationship and what is simply an act of self-indulgence. No parent or teacher should pretend otherwise.

Mr Scruton's message must surely be spelt out to a much wider and younger audience.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH J. SMITH,
42 Braid Farm Road,
Edinburgh 10.
July 16.

From Ms Helen Power

Sir, The Government and the Synod are fiddling while Rome burns (reports, July 15; letters, July 18). For God's sake, let's get on with knowingly and joyfully ordaining gay priests (who have much to give to the Church); let's equalise the age of consent to 16 and let's openly acknowledge that gay Armed Forces personnel have as much right as anyone to serve.

Then we can all get on with doing what matters: trying to create a moral framework in which it is the quality of relationships, both personal and professional, which alone counts.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN POWER,
46 Stallcourt Avenue,
Penylan, Cardiff.
hpower@glam.ac.uk
July 15.

From Mr Paul Barnes

Sir, One of the key arguments Roger Scruton puts forward for a higher age of consent for homosexuals is that young men will be at risk from homosexual advances if the age were to be lowered. Although this is a well-worn theory, all the evidence disproves it.

In almost every European country there is an equal age of consent. In many it is 16 years or less. Yet I know of no evidence that young men in these countries are at any greater risk than those in Britain, where the age of consent for homosexuals is currently 18.

This same argument was used in 1993 by those who opposed a lowering of the age to 18. Yet four years on, the tide of procurement and seduction that they so firmly predicted has failed to materialise.

We should not use such spurious arguments to defend discrimination.

Yours etc,
PAUL BARNES,
34 Springdale Road, N16.
July 15.

From Mr David Bevan

Sir, I have long respected Roger Scruton for his liberal views. In the interests of keeping him fully informed, therefore, I must point out that on the Croisette yesterday I saw more than one example of elderly heterosexual men in the company of women apparently several years, if not some generations, their juniors.

Looking further afield, the terraces of the cafés in Monte Carlo are populated with "older" women, either singly or in groups, apparently quite untroubled by men of any age.

Is this purely a Riviera phenomenon, or has Mr Scruton ascribed to homosexuals alone the quality of admiring the young for some other reason?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BEVAN,
Villa Egée
1 Avenue de la Rochefoucauld,
Esplanade du Golfe, 06400 Cannes.
dbevan@cix.compulink.co.uk
July 16.

From the General Director of the Evangelical Alliance UK

Sir, Undoubtedly the Church must oppose prejudice within its midst over homosexuality; but that is not the same as complying with cultural pressure to abandon its historic teachings on sexuality.

The teachings of Jesus, the Bible and the traditions of the Church give no room for sex outside of monogamous, lifelong heterosexual marriage. This position, supported by the majority of biblical scholars over the past 2,000 years, does not single out gay men and women; it equally applies to premarital sex and adultery.

Yours sincerely,
JOEL EDWARDS,
General Director,
Evangelical Alliance UK,
186 Kennington Park Road, SE11.
July 16.

From Mr James Glucksman

Sir, While I agree with much of Roger Scruton's article, I was saddened by his claim that homosexuals tend to prey on youth, and by his citing Plato as proof thereof.

The assumption that the young are "lured" into homosexuality by old perverts, only to become in due time old perverts themselves and to continue the process, has long been a crutch on which to lean in order to deny rights to homosexuals. It is no more demonstrably true than the notion that all homosexuals are effeminate, and I am dismayed to see it perpetuated in *The Times*.

Yours etc,
JAMES GLUCKSMAN,
5310 Summit Drive,
Fairfax, 22030 Virginia, USA.
July 16.

Influence of youth

From Mr Joe Partridge

Sir, Considering Euan Blair's rumoured influence on policy concerning the environment and the millennium and the sway the royal princes apparently exert on their mother's plans, might it not be worth lowering the age of consent, voting and everything else to 12 and have done with it?

Yours faithfully,
JOE PARTRIDGE,
86 Idmiston Road,
West Dulwich, SE27.
July 15.

Future of EU

From the President of the Young European Movement

Sir, We in Britain should welcome the proposals of the European Commission for the future of the European Union (report, later editions, July 16; leading article, July 17).

For a number of years Britain has been arguing — rightly — for the EU not to forget the new democracies of Eastern Europe and for much-needed reforms to the common agricultural policy. Now the European Commission, often seen only as the evil motor of federalist integration, is proposing precisely such measures.

We should applaud this and embrace the opportunity to ensure that Britain plays her full part in shaping the EU for the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HARGREAVES,
President,
Young European Movement,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.
July 17.

Euro notes

From Mr Selwyn Hodson-Pressinger

Sir, The European Commission's decision ("Hopes for 'plastic euro' fade", Business, July 14) to scrap plans to print euro notes on plastic is eminently sensible in view of Australia's less than successful experiment.

Having Her Majesty's face disappear of its own accord from Australia's plastic bank-notes will be an irony not lost on Euro-enthusiasts or Australian republicans. However, for Britons it merely serves to remind us Australia will probably still be using paper dollar bills with the Queen's face when we are using faceless euros.

Yours sincerely,
SELWYN HODSON-PRESSINGER,
4 Lyall Street, Belgravia, SW1.
July 15.

Rights and duties

From Mr Patrick O'Brien

Sir, Before hastening to encompass human rights within British legislation (letters, July 11, 16), would it not be prudent first to define a charter of duties that those wishing to seek their rights need to fulfil?

Yours truly,
P. O'BRIEN,
2 Evening Glade,
Ferndown, Dorset.
July 16.

Death of Versace

From Miss Anne McStravick

Sir, Gianni Versace was certainly the victim of a gruesome crime, but *The Times* announced the fact in a headline across the width of the front page.

He was only a dressmaker, for heaven's sake!

Yours faithfully,
ANNE McSTRAVICK,
85 rue de la Convention,
7505 Paris.
shs.shmac@unesco.org
July 17.

Coming to terms with junk mail

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, Your correspondence concerning junk mail (July 17) has not mentioned unsolicited items put through a letterbox via the Royal Mail.

I have a notice on my door stating, "NO CARDS, NO LEAFLETS, NO MAGAZINES" and when a publisher ignored my repeated letters asking him not to deliver his magazine, I ultimately took him to the county court for trespass and won costs and compensation.

Others similarly pestered should do likewise to control this pervasive invasion of our privacy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
Breckman & Co
(Chartered accountants),
49 South Molton Street, W1.
July 17.

From Mr Brin Hodge

Sir, Would someone please explain why they find junk mail so irritating? I prefer it to come in a gaudy envelope which tells me what is inside, so that it can go straight into the recycling box without giving me the task of opening it first. How much more civilised than an unsolicited phone call.

I do nothing that I am ashamed of. If the gas company can find someone who is prepared to pay them to find out whether I pay my bill monthly — good luck to them. And as for the letters, they provide a welcome additional source of income for the Post Office — one of the few institutions still actually owned by the nation.

Yours faithfully,
BRIN HODGE,
42 Windmill Avenue,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
July 17.

From Sir Edward Peck

Sir, A new and peculiarly irritating form of junk mail has just assailed me. On two successive mornings I have found my personal fax machine, intended for precious overnight communication with close relatives in far-flung continents, emitting (the same on both occasions) advertising material, thus interfering with time on my machine, wasting my expensive fax paper and exhausting the roll.

I have replied suitably — by fax. Is there any way to stop this form of intrusion?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD PECK,
East Torrans,
Tomin Toul, Banffshire.
July 18.

Happy ending

From the Ambassador of Austria

Sir, May I comment on your report today, headed "Von Trapps' happy ending". The 1965 American-made film musical, *The Sound of Music*, has never been banned in Austria. There would have been no legal basis or any other reason for such an act. The film was made primarily for the American market and was therefore shot in English. It only made its way to Austrian cinemas and TV after a German-dubbed version had been produced.

The view of the von Trapps in post-war Austria has always been a favourable one. Most Austrians agreed with Georg von Trapp's attitude and there was never any official criticism of his decision to leave Austria under Nazi rule. In 1957 the Austrian Federal President bestowed the Decoration of Honour in Gold for services to the Republic of Austria upon Maria von Trapp.

This week's ceremony in Stowe, Vermont, coincided with a visit by 89 cadets of the graduating class of the Theresianum Military Academy, who three years ago chose Georg von Trapp as their class patron. The presence of the Austrian Consul General was meant as an official tribute and a warm sign of appreciation of the von Trapps by a new generation of Austrians.

Sincerely yours,
EVA NOWOTNY,
Austrian Embassy,
18 Belgrave Mews West, SW1.
July 15.

**Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

The northern line

From Mr Frank Wood

Sir, In your third leader (July 15) you state that Richard Hannay left London from King's Cross on what is now the East Coast main line. This is not so. He caught a train from St Pancras to Glasgow, via Leeds, Settle, Carlisle and Dumfries, where he changed to a local train for Newton Stewart.

Yours sincerely,
F. B. WOOD,
30 Templewood, W13.
woodf-l@dircon.co.uk

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, Shame on your leading article, which states that the East Coast main line is "one of the . . . fastest in Britain, the premier route from London to Scotland where the *Flying Scotsman* broke the world speed record . . . ".

Measured by average train speed it is the fastest, and has been so for much of the time since the West Coast route from Euston narrowly won the race to Aberdeen in 1895. It holds all three traction speed records: 126mph by the steam locomotive *Mallard* in 1938, 143mph by an Inter-City 125 diesel train in 1976 and 154mph by an electric locomotive in 1995.

None of these was achieved by either the steam locomotive *Flying Scotsman*, or by the train of that name, which the 10am King's Cross-Edinburgh-Glasgow Central still carries (the two are often confused).

All records were achieved by specially operated shortened trains. The first two are world records and likely to remain so: the third is exceeded daily in France, Germany and Japan.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. FOSTER,
Winterburn Grange,
Nr Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Art and craft in church sculpture

From Mr Peter Burman

Sir, James Dunnett's letter (July 12) does a service in calling attention to the important sculpture commissions in prospect at Westminster Abbey, but I am not sure that he is right to make such a sharp distinction between "artists" and "craftsmen". There are many ways of achieving good results.

Here in York, after a great debate locally and nationally, we are in the process of acquiring a new west doorway which will, I suspect, astonish the world by its beauty and interest.

The designs for the new sculpture have been modelled by sculptor Rory Young, after consultation about their theological significance with a member of the chapter, and carved by the outstanding team of carvers in the Minster stoneyard.

These carvers are men and women of great skill and sensitivity: the quality of their work can be seen from the finished examples on show in the Minster.

At Wells Cathedral one of the most successful new works is the king, made about 15 years ago by Simon Verity, a sculptor indeed but not too proud to work on the west front as a conservator so as to be able to understand thoroughly the language and *gravitas* of its 13th-century style.

At Lincoln, where I am chairman of the Fabric Advisory Council, we have new sculptures for the west front by John Roberts (an independent carver) and by Alan Micklethwaite (a member of our own stonemasonry and stone-conservation team) which I would be prepared to defend in any context.

I question whether the sculptures of our great medieval Western cathedrals would normally have been made by the Ghibertis and Donatellos of their day; some were, of course, just as the *Christ in Majesty* at Wells was made by David Wynne and the *Christ Welcoming* at Liverpool by Dame Elisabeth Frink (neither of which looks entirely convincing in its context, I feel).

I suggest that they were more often made by carvers who were close members of a team, intimately associated with the building and thoroughly familiar with the context in which they were working.

I would like to see more of their kind today and I would like to see carvers given more confidence by getting more commissions, on buildings both ecclesiastical and secular. We have a superabundance of talent in Britain in this field and, as the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has so eloquently stated in your pages (article, July 15), we need to recognise artistic work for the great national asset it is.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BURMAN (Director),
Centre for Conservation Studies,
Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies,
University of York,
The Kings Manor, York YO1 2EP.
July 16.

From Mr Simon Armstrong

Sir, Mr James Dunnett is not alone in his misconceived prejudice against 20th-century stonemasons. At Wells Cathedral copies of some of the angels from niches on the west front are being commissioned from an independent artist, not from the cathedral stonemasons.

Why do attitudes like this prevail? The craftsmen who designed and constructed these magnificent buildings were both technicians and artists. For example, in the 13th century Alexander of Abingdon, whilst working on the Eleanor Cross at Waltham, was referred to indiscriminately in contemporary accounts as *imaginator* (sculptor) and *caementarius* (stonemason).

There are many stonemasons today who are able to turn from dressing stone blocks to carving statuary with all the skills and anonymity of their medieval counterparts. There is no need for a distinction to be made between craftsman and artist.

"The idea that there was an insuperable barrier between the worker and the artist . . . was expressed . . . by intellectuals who judged, classified and stratified manual work of which they had no experience" (*The Cathedral Builders*, Jean Gimpel, 1983).

Yours faithfully,
SIMON ARMSTRONG
(Cathedral stonemason),
8 High Street, Nunney, Somerset.
July 14.

Cathedral closure

From Mrs M. J. Peel

Sir, In this college, for retired members of the clergy of the Church of England, our priests all hold strong, but not necessarily the same views on matters of doctrine, ritual and ethics, but on one issue they are unequivocally united: "Never upset the church flower-arrangers."

With their combined decades of experience, they know that Lady Bannerman (letter, July 16; see also letters, July 18) takes on flower-arrangers at her peril!

Yours truly,
DALONI PEEL,
The College of St Barnabas,
Blackberry Lane, Lingfield, Surrey.
July 18.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 18: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Derby Station this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to the new Derby County Football Club and were received by the Chairman (Mr Lionel Pickering) and the Mayor of the City of Derby (Councillor John Fuller).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh met Club officials and players, before Her Majesty opened the Stadium.

The Queen afterwards visited the Royal School for the Deaf and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Mr David Du Celiée Muller) and the Principal (Mr Timothy Silvester).

Her Majesty watched a performance of signed singing and an athletic display, and presented trophies.

The Queen subsequently opened the new Resource Centre for the School.

Her Majesty later opened the new Derbyshire Children's Hospital and was received by the Chairman (Mr Norman Woods) and the Chairman of the Kite Appeal (Mr Michael Thornton).

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, who have previously visited Rolls Royce, this afternoon honoured the Chairman (Sir Ralph Robins) with her presence at Luncheon at the Sir Henry Royce Centre.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later visited Hardwick Hall and were received by the Chairman of the National Trust (Mr Charles Nunneley) and the Duchess of Devonshire.

Finally, The Queen opened the new offices of the District of Bolsover and was received by the Chairman (Councillor Mrs Pamela Richardson).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, later visited the Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club, Windsor Crescent, Bridlington, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire (Mr Richard Marriott).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 18: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel John Rochelle upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 5th Battalion.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner on the eve of the Royal International Air Tattoo at Royal Air Force, Fairford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 18: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited Royal Air Force Manston and unveiled the Thanet Allied Air Crew Memorial Statue.

Her Majesty, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, subsequently arrived at Walmer Castle.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, this afternoon visited the Broneirion Flower Festival at the Guides Cymru Training Centre, Llandinam, to celebrate fifty years of Guiding at Broneirion.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys (Mr Mervyn Bourdillon).

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 18: The Duke of Gloucester today presented the Construction Industry Training Board's prizes at the Civil Engineering College, Bircham Newton, King's Lynn, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (Sir Timothy Colman KG).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 18: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon took the Salute at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London SW5.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 18: Princess Alexandra, President, this afternoon attended a Service of Thanksgiving to belebrate the Tenth Anniversary of St Matthew's Children's Fund for Ethiopia in the Church of St Alban the Martyr, Brooke Street, Holborn, London EC1.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening took the Salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Lord Justice Auld, 60; Lord Bethell, 59; Mr David Bowe, MEP, 42; Sir Norman Brain, former diplomat, 90; Mr Cameron Cochrane, former Headmaster, Fettes College, 64; Judge Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, 64; Professor R. Duckworth, Emeritus Professor of Oral Medicine, London University, 68; Baroness Elles, 76; Miss Evelyn Glennie, percussionist, 32; Sir Anthony Grabham, former chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 67; Major-General D.E. Isles, 73; Dr Carole Jordan, FRS, astronomer, 56; Mr Richard Knight, former Headmaster, Oundle and Monkton Combe schools, 82; Sir Herbert Laming, civil servant, 61; Mr Brian R.W. Lockhart, Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 53; Professor Mary McGeown, nephrologist, 74; Mr Brian May, rock guitarist, 50; Sir David Money-Coutts, former chairman, Coutts and Company, 66; Mr Dominic Muldowney, director of music, National Theatre, 45; Mr Ilie Nastase, tennis player, 51; Mr Adrian Noble, artistic director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 47; Dr Archie Norman, paediatrician, 85; Sir Frederick O'Brien, QC, former Sheriff Principal of Lothian and Borders, 80; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, 62; Mr Dennis Stevenson, trustee's chairman, Tate Gallery, 52; Judge Sir Lawrence Verney, Recorder of London, 73; Professor Adrian Webb, Vice-Chancellor, Glamorgan University, 54; Mr Henry Wendt, former chairman, SmithKline Beecham, 64; Professor Richard Whitfield, Warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 59.

TOMORROW: The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, 77; Sir Christopher Benson, joint deputy chairman, Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 64; Lady Margaret Colville, 79; Professor Sir John Dacie, haematologist, 85; M Jacques Delors, former President, Commission of the European Community, 72; Sir Antony Driver, former chairman, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 77; Mr E.O.M. Eilledge, chairman, BTR, 62; General Sir Jack Harman, 77; Mrs Sylvia Heal, MP, 55; Sir Edmund Hillary, KG, first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest, 78; Mr Edward Leigh, MP, 47; Lord McGowan, 59; Mr Charlie Magri, former boxer, 40; Miss Elizabeth Manners, former Headmistress, Felixstowe College, 80; Lord Palumbo, 62; Sir Jeffrey Petersen, former diplomat, 77; Mr Walter Plowright, FRS, veterinarian, 74; Mr Michael Quinn, chef, 51; Mr John Rees, former Head Master, Blundell's School, 54; Dame Diana Rigg, actress, 59; Viscount Simon, 57; Viscount Slim, 70; Miss Elizabeth Tucker, former Headmistress, Headington School, Oxford, 61; Mr John Whyte, former managing director, British Telecom, 74.

This dramatic poster, A is for Apple, was designed by Simon and Marijke to promote the Beatles' shop in Baker Street, London. It is one of many pieces of original artwork, rare posters, handbills and flyers for concerts, Underground magazines, album covers and photographs of psychedelic events from the Sixties that Bonhams Chelsea will be auctioning on September 16 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the "Summer of Love"

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury 1663-77, Ellastone, Staffordshire, 1598; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1834; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1846; Charles Mayo, surgeon, Rochester, Minnesota, 1865; A.J. Cronin, novelist, Cardross, Strathclyde, 1896; Herbert Marcuse, philosopher, Berlin, 1900.

DEATHS: Petrarch, poet, Padua, 1374; Matthew Flinders, navigator, London, 1814; John Playfair, mathematician, Edinburgh, 1819; Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester 1869-73, Abinger, Surrey, 1873; Syngman Rhee, 1st President of the Republic of Korea 1948-60, Honolulu, 1965.

The *Mary Rose*, the pride of King Henry VIII's battle fleet, sank in the Solent, 1545.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship *Great Western* was launched at Bristol, 1837.

The first all-metal liner, Brunel's *Great Britain*, was launched from Bristol, 1843; and brought back to Britain from the Falklands on this day, 1970.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Petrarch, poet, Arezzo, Italy, 1304; Hans Willem Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Holland, 1649; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith, 1st Director-General of the BBC 1927-38, Stonehaven, Grampian, 1889; Natalie Wood, actress, 1938.

DEATHS: Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone, Rome, 1616; Catherine Anne Southey, poet, Lymington, Hampshire, 1854; Sir Richard Wallace, collector of works of art, Paris, 1890; Guglielmo Marconi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1909, Rome, 1937; King Abdullah of Jordan, reigned 1928-51, assassinated, Jerusalem, 1951; Iain Macleod, politician, 1970; Charles Mark Boxer (Marc), cartoonist, 1988.

The Spanish Armada set sail for England from Corunna, 1588.

Euston station was opened, 1837.

The attempted assassination of Hitler by Count Claus von Stauffenberg 1944.

Marriages

Mr A.S. Borchardt
and Miss C.R. Johnson
The marriage took place on July 12, 1997, in St James' Church, Louth, Lincolnshire, of Mr Alexander Shon Borchardt, elder son of Dr and Mrs Felix Borchardt, of Fladbury, Worcestershire, to Miss Caren Rebekkah Johnson, only daughter of Mr Kenneth Johnson, of Lincoln, and Mrs Carol Dodds, of Louth, Lincolnshire.

Mr P. Fleming
and Miss J. Carter
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow, between Mr Philip Fleming, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Fleming, of Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, and Miss Jane Carter, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carter, of Great Baddow, Essex. The Rev Roger Wakely officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Chlöe and Hermione Fleming, Katie Vrijlandt and Oliver Jacobs. Mr Rory Fleming was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M. Lovett
and Miss M.A. Brown
The marriage took place on Tuesday, July 15, in Reading, of Mr Mark Lovett, son of the late Mr Alfred Lovett and of Mrs Mary Lovett, of Horsham, West Sussex, to Miss Anne Brown, daughter of the late Mr Frank Brown and of Mrs Dorothy Brown, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

University news

Queen's Belfast
Professor George Bain to be Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University of Belfast from January 1, 1998. He will succeed Sir Gordon Beveridge who retires on September 30. Professor Bain is at present Principal of the London Business School.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Haydn-Slater
and Miss K. Bence
The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mrs Julia Haydn-Slater, of Sydney, Australia, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Roger Bence, of Limpsfield, Surrey.

Mr P.R. Calame
and Miss A.A. Hall
The engagement is announced between Philippe Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henri Calame, of Geneva, Switzerland, and Antonia Anne, third daughter of Sir John and Lady Hall, of Thames Ditton, Surrey.

Mr A.L. Coyle
and Miss B. Losappio
The marriage has been arranged and will take place in the Duomo di Pienza, Italy, today, between Alessandro, only son of Mr and Mrs A.R. Coyle, of Kensington, West London, and Benedetta, only daughter of Professor and Mrs M. Losappio, of Montalcino, Italy.

Mr M.G. Cox
and Miss T.A. Beswick
The engagement is announced between Maximillian, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Cox, of Frome, Somerset, and Trudy, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Beswick, of Penguin, Tasmania, Australia.

Mr M. Shaw Jukes
and Miss N.J. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Jukes, of Temple Ewell, Kent, and Nathalie, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Thomas, of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada.

Mr P.I. Usher
and Miss A.J. Wilkins
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs T.F.R. Usher, of Reading, Berkshire, and Allison, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Wilkins, of Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear.

Latest wills

John **Sanderson**, of Lindholme Scotter, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £3,870,876 net.
He left £50,000 to Cancer Research Campaign, £25,000 to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research; £10,000 to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and £1,500 to the captain of Scunthorpe Golf Club to enable members to drink to his "reduced handicap in after life".

Phyllis Irene **Flory**, of London N14, left estate valued at £1,090,146 net.

John Charles **Hughes**, of Twycross, Atherstone, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,716,576 net.

John Bell **Irving**, of Kirkbride, Carlisle, left estate valued at £1,346,470 net.

Douglas **Jenkins**, of Sevenoaks, Kent, left estate valued at £1,428,330 net.

Dennis Harold **Johnson**, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £1,259,580 net.

Helen Kathleen **Keswick**, of Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,563,239 net.
She left her home and the land adjoining it to the National Trust, and £10,000. She also left £10,000 each to the SSAFA, the Sea Cadet Association, and the Royal Sailors Rests; £5,000 to Shipwrecked Mariners Society and to National Deaf-Blind League; £3,000 to RNID; £2,000 each to Police Convalescent Home, Metropolitan Police Seaside Home, Friends of the Elderly and Gentlefolk's Help, Police Defendants Trust, and Royal School Hampstead; £1,000 each to four charities.

Norman **Levitt**, of London W2, left estate valued at £1,423,066 net.
He left shares in his residuary estate to Nightingale House Home for Aged Jews and Amnesty International.

Claude Witton **Ray**, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,012,761 net.
He left £1,000 to the British Deaf Association; £500 each to St Edmunds, Downham Market, Norfolk, St Mary's Diss, Norfolk and St Martin's, Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds. In addition he left shares in his remaining estate to eight charities.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend an open-air concert in Ballindalloch Castle Ground, Ballindalloch, Banffshire at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, as President, RAF Benevolent Fund, will attend the International Air Tattoo, at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, 11.00.

TOMORROW:
The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, 10.45.

Dinner

ILEX
Mrs Patricia Dilley, President of the Institute of Legal Executives, presided at a reception and dinner held last night at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, after her election at the first meeting of the council. District Judge David Lipman also spoke. Among others present were:
Mr Geoffrey Hoon, MP, Judge Ian Davidson, QC, the President of the Nottingham Law Society and the President of the Derby Law Society.

Watermen and Lightermen

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr J.C. Jenkinson; Senior Warden, Mr C. Livett; Junior Wardens, Mr J.G. Johnson, Mr L.G. Barrow, Mr C.G. Newens.

Appointments

Ms Helen Wood, Mr Paul Raymond Carr and Mr Phillip Pelly to be District Judges. Ms Wood took up her appointment on the North Eastern Circuit on June 30. Mr Carr and Mr Pelly were assigned to the South Eastern Circuit, from July 1 and July 9 respectively.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Geoffrey Gillard, Associate Principal, St Albans & Oxford Ministry Course (St Albans): to Priest-in-Charge, Harrold and Carlton w Chellington (same diocese).

The Rev Jonathan Hagger, Curate, St Bede, Newsham (Newcastle): to be Curate, St Gabriel, Heaton (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Hamilton, Chaplain, Bishop Wand School (London): to be Chaplain HM Prison Bristol.

The Rev Philip Hudd, Priest-in-Charge, St Mark, Kirkby (Liverpool): to be Team Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Denis Huntley, Chaplain, Halifax Hospitals (Wakefield): to be Chaplain, Leeds Centre for Deaf People and member of the Leeds City Team (Ripon).

The Rev Christopher Kitchener, Vicar, St Mary, Gravesend (Rochester): to be Vicar, St Mark, Biggin Hill (same diocese).

The Rev Barbara Knight, Assistant Curate, Norton (St Albans): to be Rector, Barkway, Reed and Buckland w Barley (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Mason, Curate, St Mary & St James, Great Grimbsy (Lincoln): to be Vicar, St Thomas, Southborough (Rochester).

The Rev David Parry, Team Rector, East Farnworth and Kearsley (Manchester): to be Team Rector, Chambersbury Team Ministry (St Albans).

The Rev Rodger Place, Priest-in-Charge, Roundhay St John (Ripon): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev David Simpson, Assistant Curate, Romsey Abbey (Winchester): to be Chaplain of the University of Southampton (same diocese).

The Rev Elizabeth Storey, part-time Associate Chaplain, Liverpool University and Curate, St Michael, Garston (Liverpool): to be Curate St Matthew and St James, Mossley Hill (same diocese): remaining part-time Associate Chaplain, Liverpool University.

Church services tomorrow

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Merbecke; 6.30 EP.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Lead me Lord (Wesley), Mr D McGuckin; 3.15 E.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Ave verum (Byrd); 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Clucas), Watson in E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Domine non sum dignus (Victoria), The Provost; 4 Ch E, Responses (Gastoldi), O sing unto the Lord (Purcell).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 M, Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Christ whose glory fills the skies (Darke); 3.30 E, The Lord hath been mindful of us (Wesley).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, O Trinity, O Unity (White), Ave verum (Elgar), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Ch E, O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Howells in G, Canon P Johnson.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Euch.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Panis angelicus (Franck), Rev G Rowell; 3.15 E, Dyson in D, Zadok the priest (Handel); 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Canon David Weston; 3 E, Stanford in A, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Canon B Thompson; 6 Ch E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Responses (Ayleward), Te Deum (Leighton), Canon O Conway; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Jackson), Faire is the heaven (Harris), Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), The Archdeacon; 6 E, Jackson in G.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 10.30 Euch, Missa Sancta Nicolai (Haydn), Canon P Oestreicher; 5 E, I will lift up mine eyes (Ledger), Responses (Smith).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Darke in F, O for a closer walk (Stanford), Rev G Marshall; 6 Ch E, Wood in D, Responses (Tomkins), Rev S Barby.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Rev M Parker; 11.15 HC, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Canon R Coppin; 3.30 E, Stanford in A, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Ave Maria (Bruckner), Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E, Harwood in A flat, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ven T Lloyd; 11.15 M, Responses (Smith), Lord, let me know mine end (Greene), Canon D Ison; 3 E, Responses (Smith), Blessed city, heavenly Salem (Bairstow); 6.30 ES, Lord give me faith (Robson), Rev G Daxter.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Stanford in C, Mrs C Pascoe; 3 E, Tantum ergo (Duruflé).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Darke in F, The Archdeacon; 3.30 E, Stanford in A, O Thou, the central orb (Wood), Rev D Roberts.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Euch, Wood in the Phrygian mode, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Provost; 4 EP.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner), Exultate Deo (Scarlatti), Rev I Hayter; 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), Gray in F minor.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), The Chancellor; 11.15 M, His alms (Millinger), The Subdean; 3.45 E, Lift up your heads (Handel).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP; 10.30 Euch, Rev G Davies; 3 Ch E, Canon N Vincent; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev M Wood; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Neary), Sumsion in A; 6.30 E, Rev J C Baldwin.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Ave verum (Byrd), Canon P Denby; 6.30 EP.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon P Strange; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Be still, my soul (Ashfield), Rev S Ledwick; 6.30 Ch E, St Woolos Service (Barlow), Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Sumsion), The Dean.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis in D, Lord, thou hast told us (Johnson), The Dean; 3.30 E, Responses (Leighton), I was glad (Sowerby), Canon M Perham; 6.30 Euch, A Song of Mercy and Grace (Taylor), Canon R Hanmer.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 10.30 Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Dyson in D, Antiphon (Vaughan Williams), The Dean.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Euch, Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.30 M, Hear my prayer O Lord (Batten); 5.30 E, Sumsion in A, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Canon K Punshon.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, To thee, O Lord (Rachmaninov), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford); 10.30 S Euch, To thee, O Lord (Rachmaninov); 3.15 E, Ireland in F, Te Deum (Stanford).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Christus factus est (Bruckner), The Dean; 11.45 M; 3 E, Magdalen service (Leighton), And when the builders (Shephard), The Precentor.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Canon G Tolley; 6.30 E, Ven S Lowe.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Ch Euch, Three part mass (Byrd), Ave Maria (Anon), Rev G Swinton; 3 Ch E, Alcock in D, Hear me, O Lord (Purcell), Rev R White.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 11 M, To thee, O Lord (Rachmaninov), Responses (Ayleward); 5.45 E.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Father we praise thee (Plainsong), Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé); 6 E, Stanford in A, I was glad (Parry), The Dean.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, The Provost; 6.30 E, Canon R Gage.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Welcome, sweet and sacred feast (Finzi), Rev P de N Lucas; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Britten), Miserere nobis (Tallis); 3 E, The Second Service (Leighton), Faire is the heaven (Harris), Preb C T Tookey.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Fourth Service (Tomkins), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Schubert in G, O true bread (Vann), The Dean; 3 E, Service in five parts (Weelkes), Rev D Tillyer; 6.30 ES, The Dean.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10.30 Liturgy of the Foundation, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Behold, the tabernacle of God (Harris), The Bishop; 3.30 E, Blessed city (Bairstow), Bring us, O Lord God (Harris), The Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Schubert in G, Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 4 E, Bairstow in D, I was glad (Parry), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Let all the world (Dyson), Canon A Bergquist; 11 M, Responses (Leighton), Te Deum (Howells), The Dean; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Darke in F, The Precentor.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, The Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Ch M, Stanford in C, The Dean; 6 Ch E, Holy, holy, holy (Schubert), Bairstow in D.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Schubert in B flat, Let all mortal flesh, The Provost; 3 Ch E, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), Responses (Rose).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, He was despised (Handel), Rev G F Bradley.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC; 11 MS, Missa brevis (Mathias), Rev D Robertson; 11.30 MS, Zadok the Priest (Handel), Rev C Kenny; 8 ES, Rev K Watson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), The Chaplain; 3.30 Ch E, Dyson in D, Hear my words (Parry).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11, Rev D Molyneaux; 6, Rev D Molyneaux.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa in angustiis (Haydn), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev J Paul; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Blessed city, heavenly Salem (Bairstow), Rev S Oliver.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Rev I Davies; 6 E&B, Wise in F, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev R Bewes; 6.30 Rev R Trist.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa brevis in D (Rheinberger), I will praise God (Purcell).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Mr D Royce; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev S Downham; 5 S, Rev R Thorpe; 7.30 S, Rev R Thorpe.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Spem in alium (Palestrina), Lauda Sion (Victoria). 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Lucis Creator (Washington)

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Simile est regnum coelorum (Victoria), The Rector; 6.30 E, Purcell in E minor, Ave maria (Josquin), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F, Stanford in G, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Walmisley in D, O clap your hands (Gibbons), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Alexander-Cairns; 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9 M; 11 SM, Ave Jesu Christi (Phillips), Toccata in F (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Blake in D, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 C, Sortie in D minor (Guilmant), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP, Rev M Okello

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 HC, Os justi (Bruckner), Sister Teresa; 6.30 E, Remember not, Lord, our offences (Purcell), Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Stanford in C, Rev T Devonshire-Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Come, my way (Cooper), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, Rev C Herbert

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (A Gabrieli), Fr B Scott; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev J Ovenden; 6 Living with Faith.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, O Lord, of whom I do depend (Michael East), Bishop of Ilesha.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Ch Euch, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev Sir D Pattinson.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev B Newton.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa de la Batalla Escoutez (Guerrero), Ave regina Coelorum (Guerrero), Fr W Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 C, Faire is the heaven (Harris), Ave verum (Lassus), Preb M McGowan; 6.30 E, Preb M McGowan.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Leighton), Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams), Mr P Parker.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon J O Colling.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Thou knowest, Lord (Purcell); 3.30 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Bring us, O Lord God (Harris).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, The Chaplain.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, 8 South Sq, WC1R: 11.15 Divine Service

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Shephard), Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Te Deum (Verdi), A Toy, Mon Dieu (Bourgeois), Rev P Bosher.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), The Chaplain.

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But when you pray, go into a room by yourself, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. Matthew 6 : 6

BIRTHS

CLUTTERBUCK - On July 18th 1997 at Castle Hill Hospital, Hull, to June (née Dillon) and Marcus, a son, Marcus Stephen.

COOPER - On 10th July, in Hobart, Tasmania, to Laurie (née Darlaston) and Robin, a beautiful daughter, Catherine Victoria Eliza.

HUNT - On 28th June, to Georgina (née Darvell) and Jeremy, a daughter, Tabitha Alice, a sister for Amelia.

KLYMOW - On July 16th, to Katharine (née Lawson) and Robin, a son, Joseph Frederick.

LAURENCE - On July 14th in Cambridge Mass., to Sarah and Henry, a daughter, Gemma Felicia Lamport, a sister for Colin.

MACAULAY - On July 7th 1997, to Mary Jane and Hugh, a daughter, Nell Constance, a sister for James and Tom.

SIMONS - On July 17th 1997, to Consuelo (née Davies) and Steven, a beautiful daughter, Anna Elizabeth, a sister for Thomas. Well done Pooh!

SPIEGL - On 14th July to Hugo and Jo, a son, Alexander.

BIRTHS

STRAWACK - On July 13th at The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Helena (née Braddock) and Alistair, a son, Thomas Andrew Ian.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

McKECHNIE - Alec and Joan (née Bockett) at St Tarcissius Church, Camberley, 20th July 1957.

DEATHS

ATTEWILL - Leonard John Spencer, peacefully on July 16th in St Albans aged 83 years. Loving husband of Peggy and father of Jan and Laurence, and father-in-law of Roy and Caddy. Also a proud grandfather of Natasha and Nick, Rosie, Clementine, Nicolas, Frederick and Matilda. Funeral Service Friday July 25th at 2 pm in the Lady Chapel, St Albans Abbey. All welcome. Collection in his memory for the St Albans Cathedral Music Trust.

DEATHS

BINYON - Eva Constance (née Doust, formerly Goldsmith) died on July 16th aged 88 after a short illness. Dearly loved mother of Jill, Anne (Dec'd) and John. Funeral service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 1.30pm on Wednesday July 23rd. Flowers or donations to Myeloma Research Fund at Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton c/o W.A. Truslove & Son, 121 High St., Banstead SM7 2NS.

DUGARD - On 16th July at Epsom General Hospital, Edith Mary known to all as Mary. Devoted mother of Stuart and widow of John, peacefully passed away. Service on Wednesday July 23rd at The Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Friends of Epsom Hospital c/o W.A. Truslove, 14/18 Church Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 4AB, tel: (01372) 723337.

FIRESTONE - Jeffery, author, after a short illness in Bangkok on 28th June, 1997. Cremation rites already observed at the That-tong Temple, Bangkok on 6th July, 1997. All letters /enquiries to his publisher and literary executor, P. Rangsit, Nandana Co. Ltd. 93/3 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand.

GRAY - Pam (née Waters). On July 13th 1997, in South Wales, Claudia Pamela, wife of the late Major Cliff Gray R.A.S.C. and mother of Charles-Henry. Funeral Tuesday 22nd July service in St. Hilda's Church, Griffithstown, Pontypool, Gwent at 12 noon followed by cremation. Flowers may be sent to Albert E. Hicks Ltd., 1 Grafton Road, Newport, Gwent.

JONES - Air Commodore Shirley Ann RAF Ret'd on 16th July 1997. Daughter of the late Wilfred and Betty Jones of Surbiton. Director Women's Royal Air Force 1986-89. A much loved and greatly valued friend of many. A private cremation will take place followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Fownhope, nr. Hereford at 2.30 pm on Monday 28th July. No flowers please. Donations if desired to St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, Hereford. Any enquiries to Abbotsfield Funeral Directors, tel: (01989) 562762.

OSBORNE - 14th July, 1997 peacefully at his home Church Road, Milford, Co. Donegal Captain John Allan Osborne D.S.C. Royal Navy beloved husband of Pat and dear father of John D. Henry and James. Funeral Service in the Parish Church at St Finian & St Mark, Kilmacrennan at 3 pm on Tuesday 22nd July, 1997. House Private. Sheaves of flowers only please. Enquiries to McElwee Funeral Directors Tel/Fax 00 353 74 53304.

RILEY - John Saunder, died peacefully on July 17th aged 69 years. Funeral Service at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich on July 23rd at 3.30pm. Enquiries to Broadland Funeral Services. Tel: 01603 783797.

WALLACE - David Alexander Tom passed away peacefully on July 17th in Coventry aged 83 years.

RASHEED - Kaiser, died suddenly of a heart attack on Friday 11th July in Dhaka, Bangladesh, aged 68. Father of Imran, Pervez, Zeenat, Roxana, Yasmina, Fawzia, Omar. The funeral took place in Sylhet on Sunday, 13th July.

WARNER - Irene aged 83 peacefully on July 15th 1997 in the hospice wing at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst. The funeral will take place on Wednesday July 23rd at 2.30 pm at St John's Church, Milford, Surrey, followed by a private committal. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Macmillan Service, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, W. Sussex. Enquiries J. Gorringe & Son F/D, tel: (01483) 416403.

WESTCOTT - On 17th July 1997 at home in Oxford, Graham aged 82 years. The funeral service will take place on Thursday 24th July at Wolvercote Cemetery Chapel, Banbury Road, Oxford at 12 noon. Any further enquiries please to A.W. Bruce F/D, 29 Rogers Street, Summertown, Oxford, tel: (01865) 310907.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DICKSON - Murray Graeme CMG. Treasured memories, of Murray Graeme who died on 2nd February 1997 on this his birthday. No gift or cards on this your day, but in my heart you will always stay. Always remembered, Cath H.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

FINDON - Charlotte Helena Louise 19.7.72 - 16.2.90 25 today. In loving memory of my beloved daughter Charlotte, time changes nothing in my heart you live forever. Let God take his justice on those near and far away who caused your death. Until we meet again my Charlotte Roo rest in peace, your loving Mother Lynda and your brother Ben. Time tells all truths.

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OBITUARIES

GODFREY WICKSTEED

Godfrey Wicksteed, Master Mariner and teacher, died in Stockport on July 4 aged 98. He was born on June 11, 1899.

In a long career associated with square-rigged sailing vessels, Godfrey Wicksteed first shipped before the mast as an ordinary seaman in the four-masted barque *Bellands*, carrying coal from Newport to Buenos Aires in the years immediately after the First World War. In the 1930s, having gained the last Extra-Master's certificate for square-riggers to be held by an Englishman, he was skipper of the three-masted fully-rigged trading ship *Joseph Conrad*.

In 1957 he was appointed First Mate of the *Mayflower II*, when the replica re-enacted the voyage of the Pilgrim Fathers from Plymouth, Devon, to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Finally, as a sprightly octogenarian and consultant rigger to the *Cutty Sark*, he was regularly to be seen aloft, astride the great clipper's topgallant yards, in her dry berth at Greenwich.

In between he had taken a degree at London University, taught navigation at University College, Southampton, and cruised as a nautical instructor of sea cadets in the sail training craft *Henrietta* in the North Sea. In the 1950s he was headmaster of Wicken Fen village school, near Ely, before moving to teacher training in Leeds for the remainder of his career.

Godfrey Garton Wicksteed was born in Padiham, near Burnley, Lancashire. His father was the Blake scholar and Unitarian Minister Joseph Wicksteed. His mother was a Quaker. His father was persuaded by two friends, the author Henry Binns and the publisher Arthur Dent, to move south and join them in the newly developing community of Letchworth Garden City in Hertfordshire.

Wicksteed had an idyllic childhood there. It was an upbringing in which immersion in literature and the other arts alternated with sailing with his grandfather, the Dante scholar P. H. Wicksteed, in the Hardanger *faering* (small four-oared sailing craft) he had brought back from Norway. With his uncle Sam, whose ketch he helped to sail and navigate round the coasts of Britain, Wicksteed also became an experienced offshore seaman.

He went to school at Bedales, where he became head boy. It was there that he met the girl Erica Weiss who was later to become his wife.

Being a pacifist, he volunteered when war came in 1914 to go to sea and take part in minesweeping or any other kind of work devoted to saving life. This seems sufficiently to have impressed the conscientious objectors' tribunal at Hitchin, which reviewed his case, for it to grant him exemption from military service, provided he joined the Merchant Navy. For the last two years of the war he served in hospital ships evacuating casualties across the Channel from the battlefields of Flanders.

At the end of the war he seized the opportunity to join the crew of one of the last commercially registered four-masted barques, the *Bellands*, at Newport. As she dropped down the Bristol Channel on the night tide, Wicksteed was ordered aloft by the bo'sun to "loose the main upper t'gallants" (the second highest sail on the barque's 175ft mainmast). The new recruit gulped, and obeyed.

This was the beginning of a seagoing career that was to take him to Australia and Chile, rounding Cape Horn on many occasions. In the meantime it was a race against time to obtain successively his Second Mate's, First Mate's and then Master's certificates, before commercial sailing craft were driven from the seas by the steamship.

But Wicksteed was lucky enough not only to get his *skipper's ticket* but, in 1934, to get a square-rigger command, too. While in *Bellands*, Wicksteed had met the celebrated Australian mariner Alan Villiers, who now gave him command of the commercial sailing vessel *Georg Stag*, which he had bought in Denmark. Villiers renamed the ship *Joseph Conrad* and asked Wicksteed to sail her home from Copenhagen to England. His wife Erica, whom he had married in 1932 while he was reading for his degree and teaching diploma at London University, took her trick at the wheel during this passage.

He next became a nautical instructor, first at the Sir John Cass Technical Institute, then on his own account. In 1934 he was for a year head of the Department of Navigation at University College Southampton. From 1936 to 1938 he taught at Gordonstoun and during the war he moved to Beckenham and Penge Grammar School, from where he was seconded as a part-time youth adviser. He then contributed to teacher training through spells at the Emergency Training Centre at Wimpole Park, near Cambridge, and the City of Leeds College of Education, where he was still giving lectures at the age of 75. In between these two posts he was headmaster of Wicken Fen village school from 1951 to 1957.

It was in 1957 that Villiers, Master of the replica *Mayflower*, appointed him First Mate of the vessel which was then being built at Brixham. Later that year he sailed in her to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where she remained, as a goodwill gift to the United States.

Wicksteed had no sooner arrived back from America than he was asked by Captain Wilfrid Dowman, then in the process of restoring *Cutty Sark* at Greenwich, to join the project as rigging adviser. He worked aloft on the *Cutty Sark* well into his eighties, remarking that it was safer than cycling in Leeds, where he had been knocked off his bicycle. It was only when he had turned 87 that the insurers put their foot down about his gravity-defying forays into her rigging.

He became very attached to the old ship, and helped with countless projects to bring her to life for school parties and inject a whiff of the sea into her various exhibitions. Painstakingly, he constructed models to help children to understand the working of her gear.

His wife predeceased him in May, and his last achievement was to get afloat again last month, when he joined his former *Mayflower II* shipmates in Plymouth, Devon, for their 40th anniversary celebrations.

He is survived by his daughter and son.

GERAINT MORRIS

Geraint Morris, television producer, died from lung cancer on July 12 aged 56. He was born on March 28, 1941.

GERAINT MORRIS's 30-year television career began and ended in his native Wales, and in the course of it he made an important contribution to the development of Welsh-language broadcasting. His achievements went far beyond the Principality, however, for as director, producer or commissioning executive he was also involved in some of the most popular and successful programmes ever shown on network television. With his well-crafted work on such series as *Softly Softly*, *The Onedin Line*, *Casualty* and *The Bill*, he not only showed an unerring ability to attract millions of viewers, but left a lasting mark on British television drama.

Geraint Morris was educated at University College, Bangor, and at the Cardiff College of Music and Drama, before joining BBC Wales in 1963. There his production credits included Welsh-language series such as *Ystafell Ddirgel* and *Lleifior*, as well as nationally networked drama.

His precocious talent was soon recognised, and by 1971 he was working on the police series *Barlow at Large* and *Softly Softly*, both spin-offs from the pioneering and influential *Z Cars*. His youth and striking good looks led at least one scriptwriter to take him on first meeting for an aspiring actor, rather than the programme's new director.

In 1973 Morris became *Softly Softly*'s producer, and he was responsible for its last three series. By the time it ended in 1976, its dramatic depiction of the work of a Bristol-based regional crime squad had helped to set new standards of realism in British television's portrayal of the police.

From 1976 to 1980 Morris was producer and director of the period drama *The Onedin Line*, about a 19th-century shipping family; a mainstay of the BBC's Sunday evening schedules from 1971, the series attracted viewers in their millions. Morris went on, in the early 1980s, to produce *King's Royal* for BBC Scotland, set in a whisky distilling business, and *Juliet Bravo*, a police series featuring a female Inspector.

It was in 1986 that Morris launched what was probably his most effective and successful series, the hospital drama *Casualty*. Conservative opinion was sometimes shocked by its gritty and often gory realism, and its determination to tackle such subjects as Aids, euthanasia, racist violence and terrorist attacks. Viewers loved it, however, and it became — and remains — one of the most popular programmes of its kind.

Casualty combined the twin fascinations of a soap opera and a quasi-documentary. Morris devoted equal attention to both aspects. The core characters — the charge nurse Charlie Fairhead and his colleagues — were powerfully drawn, their private dramas gripping. And the more public dramas of a busy urban casualty department were made just as compelling by a wealth of accurate detail. Morris's approach was shaped by what he saw when he visited the accident and emergency unit of Bristol Royal Infirmary. Moved by the grief and distress of victims' relatives, he determined not to sensationalise, and enlisted the help of experienced medical staff to eliminate errors from the programme's scripts.

Morris produced the first three series of *Casualty*, from 1986 to 1988, and returned to produce the sixth and seventh between 1990 and 1992. In between he moved from the BBC to ITV, winning large audiences with another realistic police series, *The Bill*, in 1988-89.

In May 1994 he returned to his roots in Wales and the West of England, joining Harlech Television (HTV) as senior drama consultant. He had already returned to Welsh subject-matter in his 1993 film *Selected Exits*, a collaboration with Alan Plater based on the life of the writer Gwyn Thomas; starring Anthony Hopkins, it was shown in the BBC's *Bookmark* series.

At HTV Morris was responsible for producing and developing drama for the ITV network and for cable, satellite and other outlets. His own productions included the *Wycliffe* series of crime dramas, based on the books by W. J. Burley and starring Jack Shepherd as the eponymous Cornish detective. Morris became head of drama at HTV in March 1996.

His work there also involved a return to Welsh-language television, and he was responsible for a number of notable programmes for S4C, including the film *Yn Gymysg Oll i Gyd*, an award-winning drama about a schizophrenic, and the series *Pam Fi, Duw?*, set in a South Wales comprehensive school.

Geraint Morris is survived by his wife Sian and their two sons, one of whom worked as an assistant on the current *Wycliffe* series.

LADY ZINNIA JUDD

Lady Zinnia Judd, horse show judge, died of cancer on July 13 aged 59. She was born on November 25, 1937.

ZINNIA JUDD died almost sixty years after her father. She never met him. The 4th and last Earl of Londesborough had no sons. Zinnia was his posthumous daughter.

No one attended the Royal Windsor Horse Show more regularly over the past forty years. She was there as a bride when not yet 20. Six weeks ago both her serious and frivolous friends saw their favourite judge of hunters at Windsor for the last time. Alternative medicine had held cancer at bay for a decade.

And no woman, though women are not entitled to be members, visited Buck's Club with more relish: she was employed by the club professionally and would eagerly report on her latest coup in recruiting yet another fellow to its elegant membership. Her favourite place was sitting at the corner table in the dining room with one of her many admirers. After lunch she would pause for a moment between the annexe and the club itself, looking into her father's gaze. The family motto: face adversity with fortitude.

The Earl of Londesborough, wounded three times during the First World War, was only 43 when he died: frail but still with the bearing of an officer, and a very rich peer indeed. As a young Master of Hounds during the Second World War, his widow Marigold Lady Londesborough took the fancy of a Moroccan, who would arrive at Palace Gate in a Rolls-Royce to take her to dinner at Claridge's. He had rented the car, and the chauffeur in peaked cap was his impoverished brother. Marigold apparently married the Moroccan — an event unrecorded by her in drafting her own entry in *Debrett's* — but was soon in the arms of a Polish baron whom she *did* marry. All this was heady stuff for the young Zinnia.

With her own joyful nature, sustained by the acres and handsome features of her father and brains supplied by her mother (who had been a Lubbock) Zinnia soon had London at her feet. Finishing schools followed, a discreet adjustment to a long nose, hunting all day, dancing into the early hours.

Her mother and the entourage that gathered round her removed most of Zinnia's inheritance. At least one of Zinnia's own husbands gobbled up much of what was left. And, when she was not judging at Windsor or the Royal Show in Warwickshire or the Norfolk Show, she was — by her own admission — perhaps slightly too eager to provide for others. By the 1980s she was poor: no longer a house in Palace Gate or Cadogan Square but a tiny flat in Knightsbridge. Although in recent years she regularly had to find £10,000 for alternative medicine, she delighted in giving expensive presents to her intimates, particularly the many women who were devoted to her.

She was a better judge of horses — the Queen consulted her and an owner seeking advice would go to her first — than of men. She was married five times in all.

Until the end Zinnia adored two of her many admirers, John Pollock, her fourth husband, long since dead, and Hugh Cantlie, his predecessor, from whom she was divorced many years ago. But her true love remained the father she had never met, Hugo William Cecil, last Earl of Londesborough.

She is survived by her two sons.

BILL LOFTS

Bill Lofts, researcher on children's literature, died on July 5 aged 73. He was born on September 2, 1923.

GEORGE ORWELL insisted that Charles Hamilton (the real name of Frank Richards) could not have written as much as he claimed. Bill Lofts proved him right. Through his indefatigable researches, Lofts uncovered the authorship of many boys' stories in children's papers, and demonstrated that 300 *Magnet* stories are by other writers.

His interest in juvenile literature dated back to the war years. He had served in the Royal Artillery in India, as a result of which his hearing was severely damaged. His time as a prisoner of war, made lonely by his handicap, was assuaged when he found a Sexton Blake story. From this beginning, he was to become the recognised authority on a range of writers.

William Oliver Guillemont Lofts was born in London and educated at Barrow Hill Road School. Here he formed just one of his lifelong friendships, with the man who was to become his brother-in-law. After leaving school, he went to work as an engineer for Zenith carburettors. Apart from a period of military service, he remained with the company until he became the official researcher to the publishing company Fleetway House.

While with Zenith, he began his life of research. Starting with his first love, Sexton Blake — who lived, like his rival Sherlock Holmes, in Baker Street — Lofts sought out the true name behind every episode in the Sexton Blake library. As his knowledge grew, he became a regular contributor to *The Collector's Digest*, writing about many of the children's papers and their contributors.

As a result of these articles he met Derek Adley, a fellow enthusiast with whom he was often to collaborate. Adley put Lofts's researches onto a card index, from which they compiled lists of many writers' work. Their *magmum opus* was *Men Behind Boys' Fiction* (1970), which contains brief biographical and literary notes about more than 2,000 writers and illustrators of boys' fiction. The book was published by William Howard Baker, who had been a Sexton Blake writer (and had created Paula Dane, the detective's secretary).

When Howard Baker began his ambitious schedule of republishing all 1,683 numbers of *The Magnet* — the paper that featured the weekly adventures of Billy Bunter at Greyfriars School — Lofts became an adviser. One of his principal tasks was to verify the authorship of each story. As a result of this work, all but one story can now be safely attributed. From these researches was compiled *The Magnet Companion* (1971).

Other papers catalogued in this way by Lofts and Adley include *The Gem*, *Hotspur* and *Thriller*. One of Lofts's favourites resulted in *The Rupert Index* (1979). The two also collaborated on biographies of Leslie Charteris and Frank Richards. Sadly, both books are thin on details of their subjects' lives, but they are essential starting points for further research.

One piece of serendipity that gave Lofts great pleasure was his unearthing of a hitherto unknown short story entitled *Man Overboard*, by Sir Winston Churchill, published in 1899. In his *curriculum vitae* he could also list the presidency of the Friars' and the Cambridge Old Boys' book clubs, and his work as a researcher for the Henty Society.

He claimed to have one of the largest private collections of juvenile literature in the world, and with the enormous rise in prices in recent years, it would now be very expensive, and difficult, to match.

His appetite may have been Bunteresque, but he had none of the failings of that gross misfit. He had an impish sense of humour and an inordinate *joie de vivre* that gave him an outlook on life like that of Bob Cherry, the cheerful extrovert of the Remove at Greyfriars.

He never married, although he was, for a time, engaged to a German lady, and was proud and fond of his numerous nephews and nieces.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Donald Aubrey Hymenson of 15 Hillingdon Road, Whitefield, Manchester M45 7QQ who died on the 27 March 1997 particulars to Flacks Ross Lipworth, solicitors, 25 St John Street, Manchester M3 4DT before 27 October 1997.

COX, GRACE FLORENCE of 28 CAZENOVE ROAD WALTHAMSTOW LONDON E17 4NP died on 9 FEBRUARY 1997 particulars to DOWSE & CO Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1 7BU before 20 SEPTEMBER 1997

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N J Hamilton, Liquidator
Date: 15 July 1997.

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& PARLIAMENTARY
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TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

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ON THIS DAY

July 19, 1928

The new Pyrenean Railway, opened in 1928, was the first direct link between France and Spain which actually crossed over the mountains.

NEW PYRENEAN RAILWAY.

FRANCO-SPANISH CEREMONY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CANFRANC, July 18.

The King of Spain and the President of the French Republic to-day opened the last link of the new railway between Pau and Saragossa over the Pyrenees. This is the first direct link between France and Spain which actually crosses over the mountains.

The opening ceremony took place at Canfranc, the new international station on the Spanish side, where the King and President met. The Spanish authorities had taken great pains to provide a worthy setting for the occasion. Most of the cities of Aragon joined in the preparations. Valencia yesterday sent two truckloads of flowers to Canfranc. Saragossa lent the beautiful tapestries of its Chamber of Commerce to decorate the station hall for the official banquet, and Jaca and Huesca also contributed.

President Doumergue, on arriving at Canfranc, was received on the platform by King Alfonso, and the two inspected the Spanish guard of honour. A state banquet followed in the decorated hall of the new station, which was then declared open ...

After the banquet the King and the President took the salute in a march past of the Spanish troops which are now engaged in manoeuvres in the neighbourhood ...

The new railway line extends the existing Pau link to Oloron and Bedous, and links Pau with Saragossa. The line climbs the valley of the Gave d'Aspe beyond Oloron, and follows the same valley, climbing more steeply, beyond Bedous. About 13 miles beyond Bedous the French end of the new Somport Tunnel is reached, and the highest point of the line is passed inside the tunnel. The Spanish end of the tunnel lies about 300ft above the French end, and the tunnel itself is four miles and 1,652 yards long. Great engineering difficulties have had to be overcome. The line crosses the Gave d'Aspe six times. Besides the main Somport Tunnel, there are 15 others, including a spiral tunnel of which the head is 200ft above the point of entry.

In his journey from Pau to Canfranc to-day in the Presidential train, M. Doumergue had his first real sight of the High Pyrenees at Bedous. As the train passed that station the mist cleared and the sun shone brilliantly on bare, rocky peaks rising above the white cloud girdles, while the valleys lay in dim shadow below. The journey continued through lovely mountain scenery as the train wound its way along the narrow Gave d'Aspe, crossing and recrossing the road and the river, now in the shade of towering precipices, now creeping on a sunlit ledge above dim depths. Beyond Bedous the President could appreciate the feat of the engineers as his train twisted and turned over bridges and through tunnels, climbed the steepest main-line gradient in the world and plunged into a spiral tunnel before debouching on a ledge whence the entrance to the tunnel was visible far below. When the French President crossed the frontier underground through the Somport tunnel, he could say in the words of King Louis XIV, "Il n'y a plus de Pyrenées."

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

NEWS

Adams calls for a ceasefire

■ The IRA was expected to declare a ceasefire in response to a call from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president. Mr Adams said he had called on the IRA leadership to restore the 18-month ceasefire that ended with the Docklands bomb in February 1996 because the Labour Government had removed the obstacles to serious peace talks. He expected a positive response ....Page 1

South Bank named after philanthropist

■ London's South Bank Centre is to be renamed The Paul Hamlyn Centre after a multimillion-pound gift from one of Britain's most generous philanthropists. Hamlyn, who shares the fortune he made in publishing with arts and charitable causes, is believed to have given £17 million ....Page 1

Jobless Tories

Almost a third of the Conservative MPs who lost their seats have not found full-time jobs..... Pages 1, 12

Royal celebration

Eighty friends of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles gathered for a party to celebrate her 50th birthday ....Pages 1, 2

Rising target

Munro baggers who thought it was safe to hang up their boots after climbing all 277 mountains over 3,000-ft in Scotland are being forced to think again.......... Page 3

Summer getaway

About 600,000 holidaymakers are expected to leave Britain this weekend, the peak of the season .... Page 5

Birdwoman warned

A pensioner who attracts thousands of birds to her home by smothering her garden with food was warned that she could go to prison................................ Page 7

Costly extension

Tom and Margaret Batten are having to sell their home after a dispute with neighbours over an extension ....Page 8

Shrine in danger

Friars at the Carmelite priory at Aylesford, Kent, say the shrine is in danger of collapsing because of global warming................. Page 10

Flood disaster

Poland held a national day of mourning for 48 flood victims, while German authorities stood by for mass evacuations in Brandenburg .... Page 14

French tax shock

France will demand billions of francs in extra taxes to ensure the country qualifies for the European monetary union...............Page 15

Versace memorial

Hundreds of mourners were screened by undercover agents at a Miami Beach memorial for Gianni Versace.................. Page 16

Sotheby's ends London antiquities sales

■ Sotheby's is to pull out of regular antiquities sales in London, five months after allegations that it sold artefacts smuggled to Britain from abroad. It is understood that the world's oldest auction house will only hold occasional sales from collections whose provenance is unquestioned...................................Page 1

NATURE NOTES

Some assorted nuts

OPINION

Peace on whose terms? If republicans engage in another tactical suspension and are determined to see Northern Ireland wrenched out of the UK then the terms on which they have been wooed will prove perilous ... Page 21

Clinton for Gore: Mr Clinton is actively assisting the presidential ambitions of Albert Gore. The Vice President must be somewhat uncertain about the value......... Page 21

LETTERS

Homosexuals; carvings; Europe attitudes .... Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Sensible people accept that Prince Charles and his friend should be able to marry. No public good lies in keeping them apart .... Page 20

Nicholas Serota: The relationship between the two new Tate galleries in London will be vigorous, with, for example, modern British works being exchangeable. Page 20

OBITUARIES

Godfrey Wickstead, mariner; **Lady Zinnia Judd**, horseshow judge; **Geraint Morris**, television producer.........Page 23

BUSINESS

Building societies: Carpetbaggers poured in £1.8 billion in June, the biggest inflow of funds for a decade.... Page 25

Airlink: British Airways plans to form close ties with the Iberia, the state-owned Spanish airline ....Page 25

Banking: The troubled investment arm of Barclays, is being investigated by American regulators........... Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 71.8 to 4877.2. Sterling rose from 104.7 to 104.8 after a rise from $1.6720 to $1.6743 and from DM2.9964 to DM2.9990 ....Page 28

SPORT

Golf: Darren Clarke led the Open Championship after a second-round 66 put him nine under par..........Page 48

Cricket: Alec Stewart, the England wicketkeeper, was struck in the face against Hampshire but expects to be fit for the fourth TestPage 44

Football: Stuart Pearce signed a three-year contract with Newcastle after being granted a free transfer by Nottingham Forest....Page 47

Cycling: Jan Ullrich extended his lead in the Tour de France with a masterly performance in the time-trial.........Page 43

ARTS

Rating chasing: "Radio 3 can venture no further down Populist Road or Bland Alley without losing its *raison d'être*," says Richard MorrisonPage 19

Modern Machiavelli: At the Young Vic *The Prince* applies the wiles of ancient political wisdoms to a British election ....Page 19

Musical protest: The Cheltenham Festival hears an extraordinary piece of musical protest against the Sicilian Mafia; and Wigmore Hall acclaims two fine pianists..........Page 19

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Still waters: Rutger Hauer, a very human android.................Page 8

Serial killer: Living next to an accused man...Page 24

Weekend

Farming Today: A defiant dawn chorus.........Page 1

Glowing gardens: .Page 2

Royal rats: The pack chasing the Princess.....Page 7

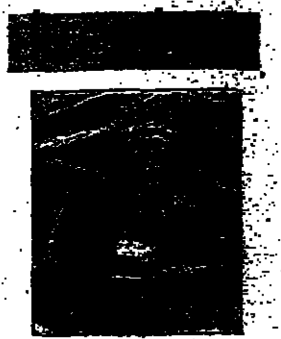
Travel:............Pages 15-22

10 15

Jetset Jamie of the O-Zone.......................Page 6

Win: In-line skates..........3

Motocross: Star at 9........8



West End yawns: Musicians in the pit.........Page 4

Food: ....Page 7

Books: ....Page 8

What's on:............ Page 15

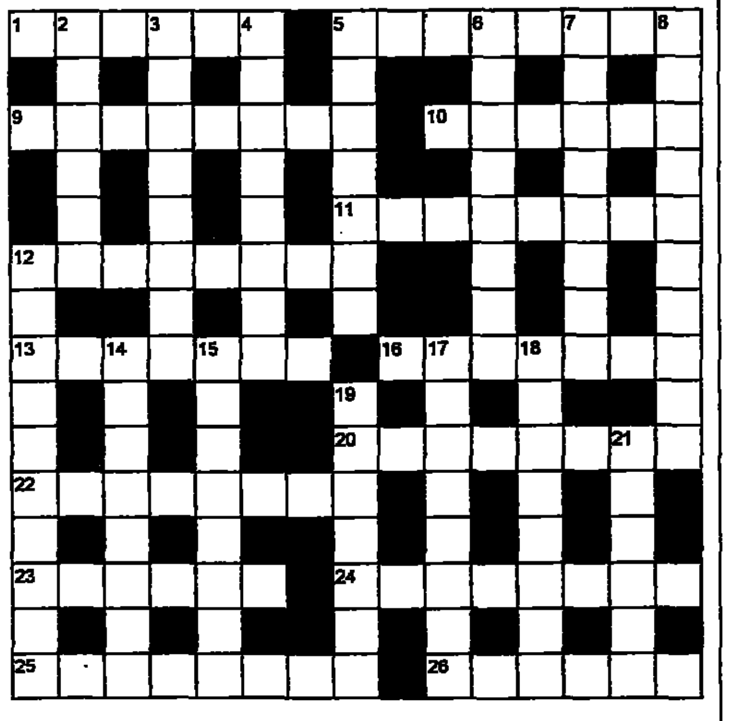
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,536

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS

1 Nut to eat when shelled (6).
5 Send out of underworld area under police control (8).
9 Fiddler entertaining king is first-class type (8).
10 Walk slowly bearing fish (6).
11 Girl making a pass (8).
12 Name work that is about a goddess (8).
13 Desperately downed about a quarter of a pint of water in depression (3-4).
16 Bury in state in the old days (7).
20 Turn round to embrace, say, intimate friend (5,3).
22 One who follows here and there when distracted (8).
23 Way to split up actual turnover of grocery store (6).
24 Place for melting down stolen silver? (8).
25 Pop here in place of uncle (8).
26 Leaders of great bravery unrecognised by their valets? (6).

DOWN

2 Illuminations held in the air by a pole (6).
3 Hot and cold drink that's appreciated by player (8).
4 Like Carroll's three sisters of noble family (4-4).
5 Elicited little money from the poor (7).
6 Way old dope can be cause of disease (8).
7 Divided skirt, however, is not such a garment (3-5).
8 Row in English city over a teacher for Indian boy (10).
12 The stuff of fish paste (10).
14 Retire, having a stalemate (8).
15 Rose vase fashionable in foreign parts (8).
17 Old-fashioned marriage is in eclipse (8).
18 Illogical sort of argument describing nothing? (8).
19 Prepare to pass the sauce to American (7).
21 Bait swallowed by unintelligent leatherjacket (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,530

```
ACRID BACKBITER
L E I O H U A O
LANDSLIDE CAROB
A E G L W O D I
LAWFUL STALLION
O   S B H I N G
NOVITIATE CREDO
G E   L F   S O
TAROT DIAGNOSED
H S R H T O   F
EXAMINEE EMIGRE
L T U A S I R L
IDIOM DECENNIAL
N L P E O E N O
EYESHADOW ENDOW
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,535

```
ENCHANT BUMPKIN
V R L R R E I E
EVOCATIVE SINEW
N U C A T S K Z
  TAKENFORARIDE
S O   G N B E A
KINDLILY SORREL
Y   A E F U   A
SQUASH RESTRAIN
C S T T T   S D
ROUNDTHECLOCK
A A I E H F A I
PILOT STIFFENER
E L C I N A G O
RHYTHMS GALLEON
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: G Alderman, Belper, Derbyshire; P Vincent, Orpington, Kent; B Kirby, Exeter, Devon; D Burnett, Billingham, Co Durham; L F Potter, Purley, Surrey.

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5 06 am
Sun sets: 9 07 pm
Moon sets 4.29 am
Moon rises 8.18 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 9 07 pm to 5 07 am
Bristol 9 17 pm to 5 17 am
Edinburgh 9 43 pm to 4 58 am
Manchester 9 25 pm to 5 06 am
Penzance 9 22 pm to 5 35 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5 07 am
Sun sets: 9 06 pm
Moon sets 5.38 am
Moon rises 9.03 pm

Full moon today

London 9 06 pm to 5 09 am
Bristol 9 15 pm to 5 18 am
Edinburgh 9 42 pm to 4 57 am
Manchester 9 24 pm to 5 07 am
Penzance 9 21 pm to 5 36 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01 37	6 6	14 04	6 9
Aberdeen	01 13	4 1	13 42	4 1
Avonmouth	07 12	12 7	19 35	13 2
Belfast	11 07	3 3	23 29	3 2
Cardiff	06 58	11 8	19 26	12 2
Devonport	05 43	5 1	17 58	5 4
Dover	11 05	6 4	23 23	6 5
Dublin (N Wall)	11 49	3 9	-	-
Falmouth	05 14	4 9	17 29	5 2
Greenock	00 36	3 2	12 45	3 1
Harwich	-	-	12 05	3 9
Holyhead	10 30	5 3	22 48	5 6
Hull (Albert D)	06 21	8 2	18 50	8 3
Ilfracombe	05 58	8 6	18 25	9 0
King's Lynn	06 25	6 4	18 53	6 4
Leith	02 33	5 3	15 00	5 4
Liverpool	11 21	9 0	23 43	9 4
Lowestoft	09 31	2 5	22 00	2 4
Margate	-	-	12 09	4 5
Milford Haven	06 12	6 5	18 36	6 8
Newquay	05 05	6 5	17 25	5 8
Oban	05 53	3 6	18 20	3 9
Penzance	04 33	5 1	16 57	5 4
Portland	07 01	1 8	19 24	2 0
Portsmouth	11 32	4 5	23 44	4 6
Shoreham	11 20	5 9	23 39	6 2
Southampton	10 52	4 4	23 11	4 6
Swansea	06 25	8 6	18 48	9 2
Tees	03 38	5 1	16 05	5 2
Walton-on-N	11 57	4 1	-	

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 23C (73F); lowest day max: Loftus, north Yorkshire, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Clacton, Essex, 0.79in; highest sunshine: Teignmouth, Devon 15.3hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will will have plenty of sunshine in most places. Eastern coasts will have a cool onshore breeze and more cloud. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have strong sunshine, especially in the west. It will be very warm inland and cooler on the coasts.

☐ **London, S E, Cent S & N England, E & W Midlands, Channel Isles:** dry and fairly bright, spells of warm sunshine. Light northeast breeze. Max 21-24C (70-75F).

☐ **E Anglia, E, N E England:** some cloud, especially near coast, but sunny spells. Moderate northeast wind. Max 20-23C (68-73F).

☐ **S W, N W England, S & N Wales,** sunny spells and a few clouds. Light northeast wind. Max 21-24C (70-75F).

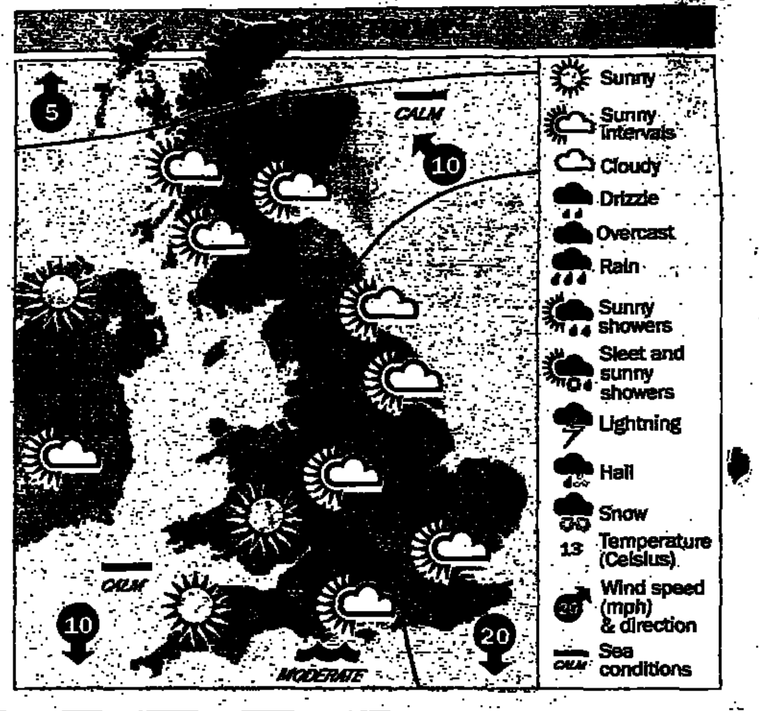
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** cloud and warm sunny periods. Light northeast wind. Max 19-22C (66-72F).

☐ **S W, N W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** warm with long sunny spells and a few clouds. Light southeast wind. Max 20-23C (68-72F).

☐ **N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright with patches of cloud and mist. Light southeast wind. Max 14-17C (57-63F).

☐ ***Outlook for tomorrow and Monday:*** mostly fine and warm, although eastern England will have low cloud. Northern Ireland and northwest Scotland may have showers on Monday.

☐ **Pollen for today and tomorrow:** low to moderate in northern Scotland, northeast England, East Anglia, southeast England, central south England, and London; moderate to high elsewhere (supplied by the Pollen Research Unit).



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

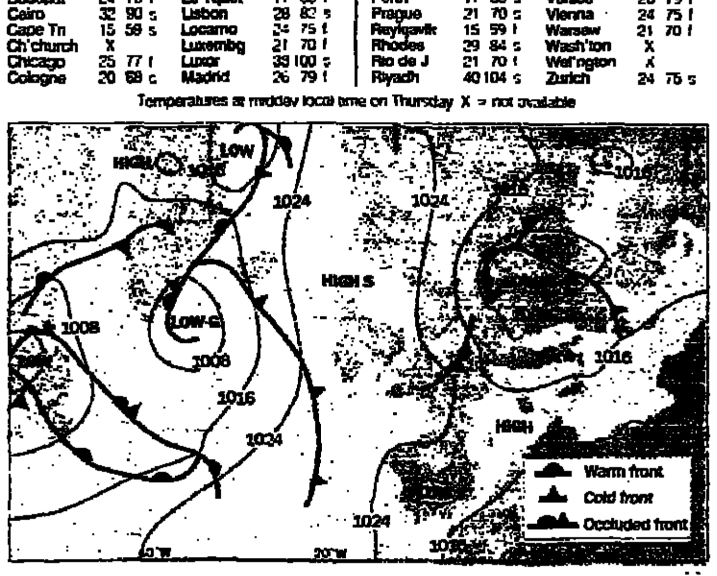
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun	Rain	Max				Sun	Rain	Max		
	hrs	in	C	F			hrs	in	C	F	
Aberdeen	8 1	0 01	20	68	s	Leuchars	8 1	0 01	19	66	s
Anglesey	7 0	-	17	63	s	Littlehmptn	8 5	-	22	72	s
Aspatria	10 0	-	20	68	s	London	4.5	0.01	18	64	c
Aviemore	2 2	-	20	68	b	Lowestoft	2.6	0 09	19	66	d
Belfast	1 7	-	18	64	b	Manchester	5 4	0.02	21	70	b
Birmingham	4 4	-	20	68	b	Margate	0.2	0.25	19	66	du
Bognor R	8 1	-	20	68	s	Minehead	12.8	-	19	66	s
Bournem'th	9 0	-	22	72	s	Morecambe	8 6	0.10	23	73	s
Bristol	10 2	-	21	70	s	Newcastle	4.7	0.01	18	64	s
Buxton	5 1	0 01	19	66	s	Newquay	10 7	0 01	17	63	s
Cardiff	12 2	-	21	70	s	Norwich	1 6	0 01	19	66	c
Clacton	4 7	0 79	18	64	c	Oxford	6 3	0 01	21	70	r
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	-	21	70	s
Colwyn Bay	8 0	-	18	64	s	Poole	11 3	-	23	73	s
Cromer	2 1	0 01	17	63	c	Prestatyn	X				
Dunbar	2 9	-	17	63	s	Ross-o-wye	9 4	-	21	70	s
Eastbourne	8 0	0 01	20	68	s	Salcombe	13 3	-	21	70	s
Edinburgh	7 2	-	21	70	s	Saunton Snd	10 4	-	18	64	s
Eskdalemuir	6 4	-	18	64	b	Scarboro'	0 8	0 10	15	59	c
Exmouth	14 9	-	22	72	s	Shrewsbury	9 8	-	21	70	s
Falmouth	10 4	-	18	64	c	Skegness	4 6	0 06	18	64	sh
Fishguard	6 8	0 01	15	59	b	Southend	1 6	0 04	19	66	r
Folkestone	5 2	0 11	19	66	b	Southport	8.6	-	20	68	s
Glasgow	10 4	-	21	70	b	Southsea	X				
Guernsey	13 7	-	20	68	s	Stornoway	-	0.01	16	61	d
Hastings	6.6	-	20	68	s	Swanage	10 9	-	22	72	s
Hayling I	7 4	-	20	68	s	Teignmouth	15 3	-	22	72	s
Herne Bay	0 5	0 31	17	63	c	Tenby	9.0	-	19	66	s
Hove	5.4	-	21	70	b	Tiree	3 6	0.01	15	59	c
Hunstanton	2 9	0 13	17	63	s	Torquay	14.6	-	23	73	s
Isle-of-man	13 9	-	19	66	s	Tynemouth	X				
Isle-of-wight	10 1	-	20	68	s	West-s-mare	X	-	21	70	s
Jersey	13 4	-	21	70	s	Weymouth	13 4	-	21	70	s
Kinloss	2 8	0 01	18	64	b						
Leeds	4 2	0 01	21	70	s						
Lerwick	X										

ABROAD

Ajaccio	26	79	f	Corfu	30	86	s	Majorca	30	86	s	Rome	26	79	f
Akrotiri	28	82	s	C'phagn	21	70	f	Malaga	29	84	s	S Fr'sco	19	66	f
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	15	59	c	Malta	30	86	s	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	23	84	s	Dubrovnik	25	77	s	Melb'rne	11	52	f	Salzburg	26	79	f
Amst'dm	19	66	f	Faro	24	75	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	0	32	fg
Athens	30	86	f	Florence	32	90	s	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	30	86	s
B Aires	2	36	s	Frankfurt	22	72	s	Milan	29	84	f	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	36	97	f	Funchal	22	72	c	Montreal	23	73	s	St'kholm	20	68	f
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	25	77	s	Moscow	17	63	c	Strasb'rg	25	77	t
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	25	77	f	Munich	26	79	f	Sydney	14	57	s
Barcelona	27	81	s	Helsinki	20	68	s	N Delhi	X			Tangier	24	75	s
Beirut	30	86	f	Hong K	26	79	sh	N York	25	77	s	Tel Aviv	30	86	f
Belgrade	27	81	f	Innsbrck	24	75	f	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tenerife	27	81	s
Berlin	23	73	f	Istanbul	24	75	c	Naples	29	84	f	Tokyo	23	73	c
Bermuda	28	82	f	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	27	81	s	Toronto	22	72	s
Biarritz	18	64	c	Jo'burg	15	59	s	Oslo	24	75	f	Tunis	36	97	f
Borde'x	22	72	s	L Angels	23	73	f	Paris	22	72	f	Valencia	30	86	f
Brussels	21	70	f	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	31	88	s	Vanc'ver	21	70	f
Budapest	24	75	f	Le Touqt	17	63	f	Perth	17	63	s	Venice	26	79	f
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	28	82	s	Prague	21	70	s	Vienna	24	75	f
Cape Tn	15	59	s	Locarno	24	75	f	Reykjavik	15	59	f	Warsaw	21	70	f
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	21	70	f	Rhodes	29	84	s	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	25	77	f	Luxor	39	100	s	Rio de J	21	70	f	Wel'ngton	X		
Cologne	20	68	c	Madrid	26	79	f	Riyadh	40	104	s	Zurich	24	75	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: high S will change little; low G will fill as it drifts northeast; low S will stay over Spain, low W will fill in situ

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هكذا من الأصل

The royal ratpack exposes itself

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THE TIMES
weekend

Why sick pets are given the needle

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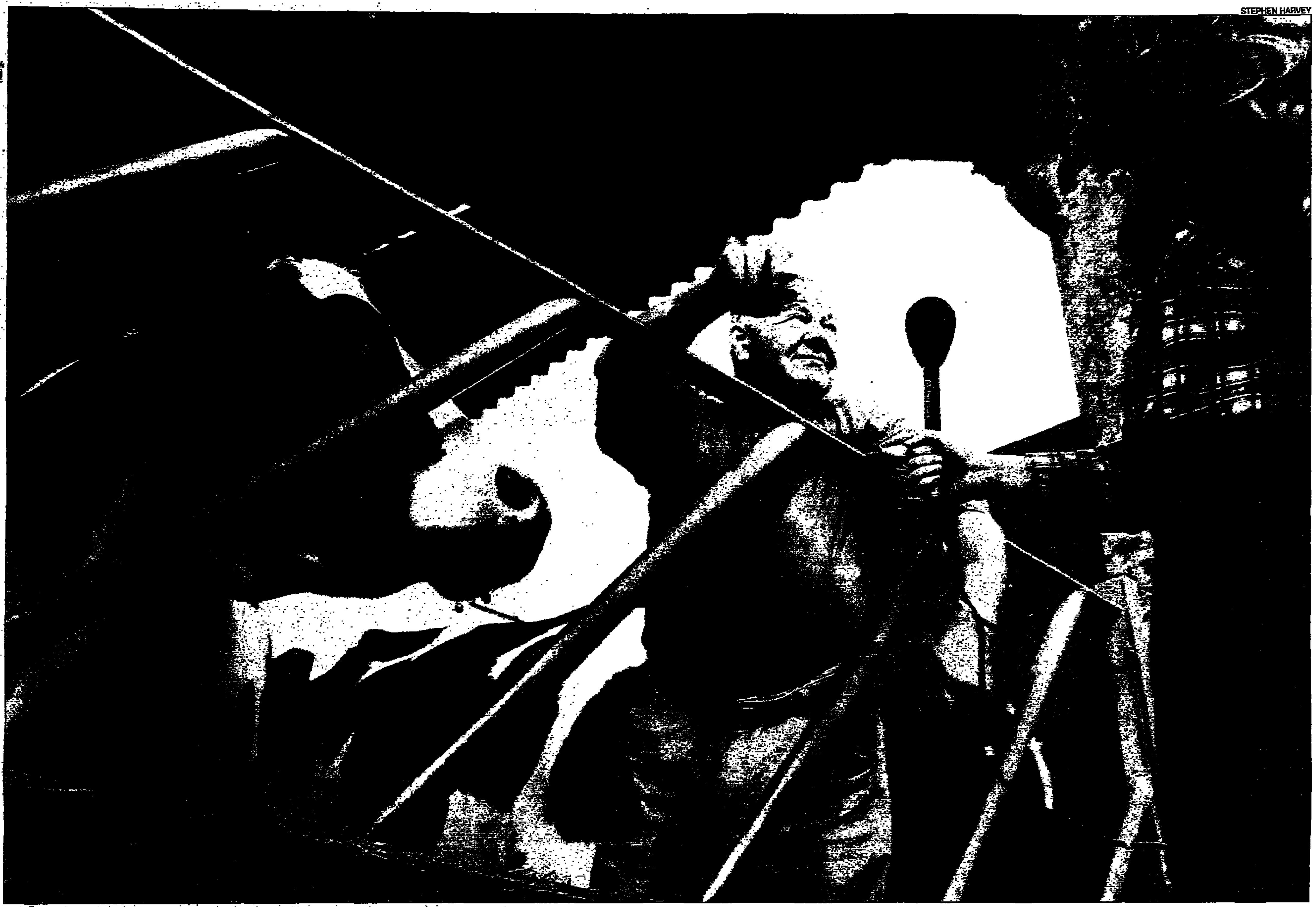
SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

Radio 4's *Farming Today* is under threat. **Damian Whitworth** on an eccentric corner of the broadcasting field

STEPHEN HARVEY



Many early-morning listeners, not only country people, hope that Radio's 4's *Farming Today* will continue till the cows come home, whether it is commenting on farmers' views and agricultural doings or ministerial un-doings

Mucking about at the BBC

Next Thursday is Judgment Day at Radio 4. James Boyle, the controller, has devised a major shake-up for his station and will explain to the BBC governors which programmes he wants to cast into outer darkness.

One of those widely tipped for the chop, or at the very least radical change, is also one of the corporation's oldest. Its rural tone was around long before Boyle was born; it goes on air six days a week at a time when most senior executives at the Birt Broadcasting Company are still in bed. For 15 minutes every weekday and 40 minutes on Saturday it concerns itself with Britain's biggest field of employment and has been the preferred listening of early risers everywhere, town or country. And its influence on recent political life should not be underestimated.

Farming Today, 60 years old this year, is expected to be axed or subsumed into a new, extended *Today* programme. Either option will cause uproar among its listeners, many of whom have discovered a new lease of campaigning life after the success of the recent countryside rally in Hyde Park. The threat to *Farming Today*, they argue, is just another assault on their way of life. But on this occasion they can count for *support on an army of townies* who greet the dawn fortified by a dose of milk quotas and outside broadcasts drowned out by bleating.

Boyle's office says he is a regular listener to *Farming Today*. But if the 6.10am transmission time has been a weakness for the programme — because many executives and mandarins are unfamilar with it and so do not care about it — then it has also been its greatest strength. At that ungodly hour *Farming Today* provides a surreal bridge between sleep and the harsh realities of *Today's* John Humphrys and James Naughtie, an interlude as bewildering as the dreams from which listeners are trying to raise themselves.

While *Farming Today* is an important information service *for those preparing* to put oil in their tractors, only 10 per cent of listeners are farmers. The rest of the one million who tune in each week hail from every geographical location, conurbation and country, and from all walks of life.

Regular listeners, such as Bob Ayling, the chairman of British Airways, and the union boss Bill Jordan say the programme provides a window on rural life from their hectic urban routine. They love its idiosyncrasies.

The precursors to *Farming Today* first crept on to the airwaves in 1929, starting with the solemn listing of the Fatstock Prices.

Things livened up by comparison when Douglas Hurd's father, Anthony, a *Times* journalist, took over a weekly evening programme called *Farmers Only*, from which *Farming Today* emerged in 1937. By 1964 it had a daily dawn slot but the Fatstock Prices remained.

The noisiest row over its future occurred in 1990/91 when again it was threatened with the axe. But it was saved by a vociferous campaign and the fact that its producers had had the foresight, in the mid to late 1980s, to make it more palatable.

One of the driving forces behind the change was Dylan Winter, a producer and presenter of the programme who appreciated that at that time of the morning things could, and should, be just a little crazy. "The beautiful thing about *Farming Today* is that your boss is in bed when it goes out," he says.

Winter's particular brand of presenting was defined by his treatment of the by now legendary Fatstock Prices. One day, instead of the office PA reading this tedious shopping list, listeners fumbling for their socks were hit by the cheery Irish brogue of Terry Wogan. The next day it was Jimmy Young.

"You can't get duller than the Fatstock Prices. We basically lured Wogan and Young by saying that the other had agreed to do it. We didn't tell the listeners who was doing the readings before hand. Wogan did them like that chap who does the football results and tells you by the tone of his voice who has won. You could tell before he finished whether a price was up or down."

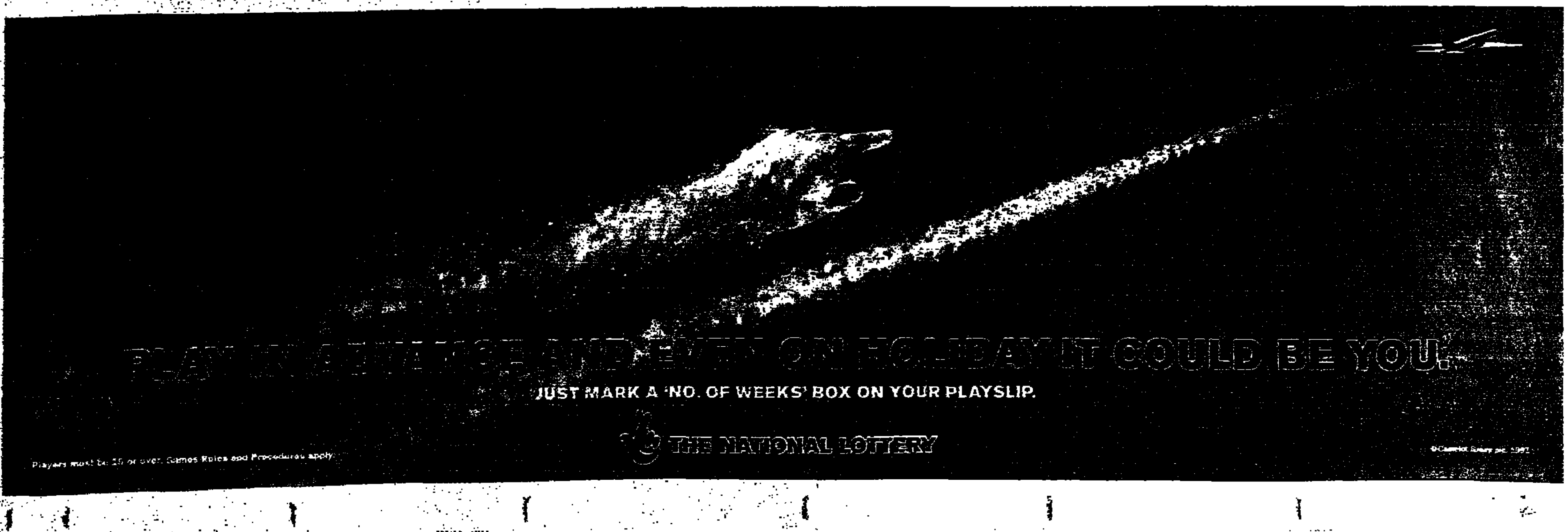
The anarchy was picked up by the guests. Winter's partner in crime was Tim Finney, now an organic butcher, who presided over some of the more bizarre on-air proceedings. One morning Robin Pooley, then chief executive of the Potato Marketing Board, was a live guest in the studio. "I told him just before we came back on air what I was going to ask him and that we had 25 seconds left. We came on air and he said: 'I've no idea what you are talking about but I do think the standard of bacon in the BBC breakfast is terrible.' And he talked about this until the end of the programe."

The next week, by coincidence, Pooley's brother, Peter, a big shot in Brussels, was on. Finney asked him a tricky question and recalls: "He said, 'That's a very interesting question. . .' and then he just started barking. I said: 'What's going on?' and he said: 'Woof, woof: I've got an Old English sheep dog here and he wants to go for a walk. What's the question again?' He didn't have a bloody dog. He didn't want to answer the question and he wanted to go one better than his brother."

Such lunacy was born in an atmosphere that would horrify the corporation middle managers today. Finney recalls members of the *Farming Today* team regularly going out for a

Continued on page 3

SHOPPING.......[illegible] | GARDENING.......4-6 | LIFE AND SOUL.......7 | PROPERTY.......8-10 | FEATURES.......11 | COUNTRY LIFE......13 | TRAVEL.......15-21 | GAMES.......23



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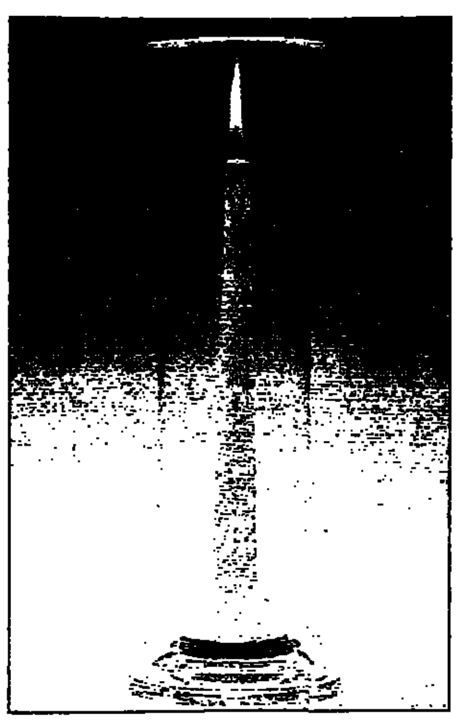
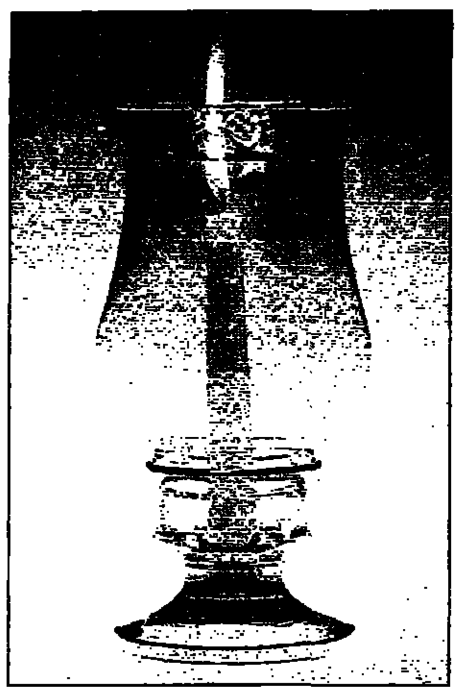
How does your garden glow?

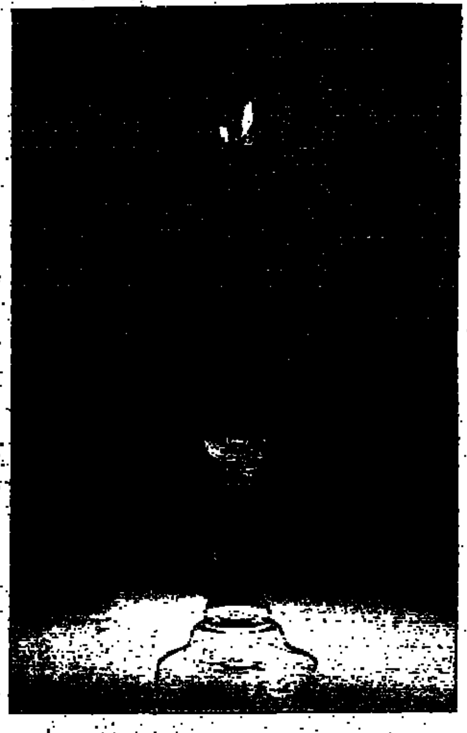
What better way to shed light on those long hot summer evenings, both indoors and out, than with the magical warmth of a lantern? **Sudi Pigott** selects some of the best



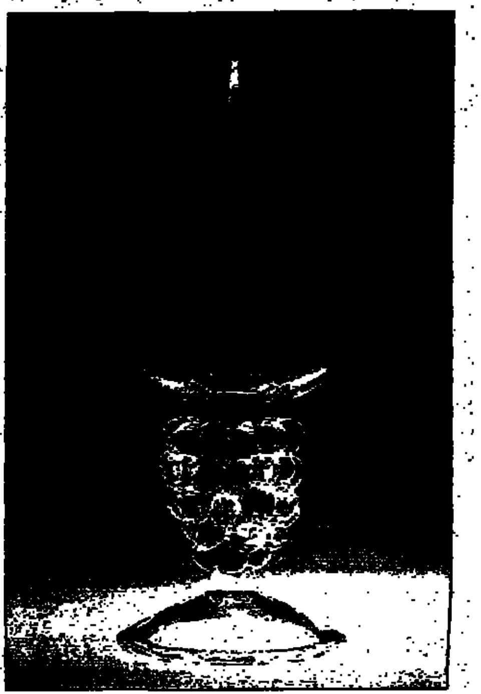
ABOVE: Cylindro storm lantern, £14, Habitat, branches nationwide (0645 334433)
BELOW: Moroccan-inspired glass lantern by Maryse Boxer, £25, in six colours, from Chez Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-245 9493)



TOP ROW: Top Tiny night hanging candili, £8.95, Colour Blue, Beckhaven House, 9 Gilbert Road, SE11 (0171-820 7700). **BOTTOM ROW** (left to right): Hurricane lamp with criss-cross lattice pattern, £14.95, The Conran Shop, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 7401). Melon lantern, £12.95, The Pier, branches nationwide (0171-814 5020). Indonesian free-standing metal lantern with perforated leaf design, £39.95, The Pier, as before. Tall spiral candili holder, £14.95 (including candle), Colour Blue, as before. Zinc lantern with star motif decoration, £9.95, Angelic, 6 Neal Street, WC2 (0171-240 2114; or for nearest store call 0171-267 9299). Ribbed glass lantern on a chain in blue or orange, £7.95, Angelic, as before
Photographs by **Des Jenson.** Styling by **Caroline Griffiths**



ABOVE: Elegant extra tall hurricane-glass storm lantern, £125, Marston & Langinger, 192 Ebury Street, SW1 (0171-824 8818)
BELOW: Clos Vougeot lantern, £1,129, Lalique, 162 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8228)



'It filtered down from command level that No 10 was not happy'

Continued from page 1

drink after preparing the next day's programme, staying too long in the pub and then deciding it was not worth going home.

"People used to sleep in the office and get a wake-up call from reception to do the show. Then one chap, who got booted out of home by his wife, lived in the office for four months and nobody batted an eyelid. It was very easy. He had 24-hour access, a 24-hour canteen, showers and baths and toilets and slept on a *chaise-longue*. The only thing he didn't have was somewhere to do his laundry."

But it wasn't only the staff who made themselves at home. The *Farming Today* conference room, above the office in a strange half-forgotten corner of Broadcasting House, was also inhabited. "On a couple of occasions we went in and disturbed somebody asleep under the piano. I recognised her as someone who had come in looking for a job. I saw her a few times after that in Broadcasting House looking terribly sheepish. She was a sort of bag lady who had made her camp up there. The jobs were advertised on the notice boards and she would go round bang on all sorts of doors, get rejected, go and have some lunch and then go back to her hidey hole."

The relaxed and charmingly chaotic working conditions did not make things easy for the reporter-presenters (journalists did both). "We used to spend a lot of time sleeping in cars. You would finish the show and then go and sleep outside a Little Chef, have breakfast and record a story somewhere up country and send it over for the next day's programme," Winter says.

Those who lived nearby would go home for a snooze after the show and then return at normal office hours to plan the next day's programme. One female reporter, befuddled after such a start to her day, arrived at work fearing the sack in the belief that she had overslept and missed the show. Only when a recording was played back and she heard herself presenting that day's broadcast did she accept she had done it. The environment in which the programmes were made may have been insane but the mission to inform was not forgotten.

Farming Today broadened its appeal by dropping the Fatstock Prices and tackling more general countryside issues, but was ahead of most of the field on the biggest farming story of all. "Dylan Winter made a fantastic programme on BSE but *Today* and *PM* weren't interested until months later when the newspapers started running stories," Finney says. The programme's handling of the beef crisis has continued to receive widespread acclaim, culminating in this year's Sony Award for its programme *Apocalypse Cow*. This year, too, it received the Glenfiddich Radio Programme of the Year award for its exposé on Spam.

It could be argued that the influence of *Farming Today* in the 1980s was as great as any other radio or television programme. It was certainly the preferred listening of Margaret Thatcher, who caught just a few minutes of the radio every morning before starting work around 6.30am.

"Once Mrs Thatcher spoke to the NFU and said that farmers and other early risers listen to *Farming Today* and 'I recommend it to you'. So we stuck a recording of that on the answerphone in the office," Winter says. "A few days later the message came down from on high in the BBC to "get that off the answer machine". It had filtered down through levels of command that No 10 was not happy."

For others, Thatcher's fascination with the programme was less amusing. "She was a regular listener and, as a result, it used to put her at a considerable advantage over her colleagues. Many of them were reduced to listening to it themselves in order not to be upstaged," says Sir Charles Powell, who was her private secretary. He is discreet about naming names, but adds: "I heard reports on the Whitehall grapevine of ministers going back to their offices and cursing that they weren't being kept as up to date as she was.

Sir Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's former press secretary, concurs. "She displayed an alarming knowledge of the subject of agriculture, much to the distress of the ministry. She was always better briefed than most of her ministers. Frequently her listening came out in remarks, and it was important for the problem of Europe because she would know about milk quotas or whatever."

John Gummer, a former Minister of Agriculture, "suffered miserably as a result of *Farming Today* and did not want to discuss the programme when I called him. Winter was the first man to get the acerbic food hygienist Professor Richard Lacey on the radio, and on one occasion he tore into Gummer. "Presumably Thatcher heard it and gave Gummer a bad time," Winter says, "because I was summoned to the Ministry of Agriculture and as I went up to Gummer's office I met him in the lift. I said 'hello' but he ignored me completely. I was going to follow him into his office but I was stopped and kept standing there in the corridor. Eventually I went in his office and he was sitting at this huge desk, and he said he had never been treated so badly. After that we let Lacey have another crack at him."

Douglas Hogg, another former agriculture minister, didn't serve in Thatcher's Cabinet but observes grimly: "She didn't sleep. Most people are sensible enough to go to sleep." Throughout his BSE-tormented days he listened to the programme only on Monday mornings when driving up from his constituency, but says he would mourn its passing. "I never had any complaints about the way I was treated by *Today* or *Farming Today*. It would be a loss to the farming community, there is no doubt about it. And you could argue that it is part of the obligation that flows from having a public service licence fee."

For Nicholas Soames, also a former agriculture minister, *Farming Today* is as much part of his morning routine as bacon, egg and black pudding. He is spoiling for a fight against what he sees as dangerous homogenisation of Radio 4. "It is generally my experience that the better sort of politician, of whom there are increasingly few, wakes up to *Farming Today* every morning. It is an old, valued and much-loved friend, vital to those who wish to retain an in-depth knowledge of events of interest in the countryside. It deals with subjects that affect not just farmers but the whole of countryside life and all that goes with it.

"I don't always agree with the forum of the programme but it could only be a BBC in the grip of politically correct maniacs who could replace such a worthwhile programme with more unspeakable ghastliness from John Humphrys. We are not just a ghastly urban society, as the rally in Hyde Park showed."

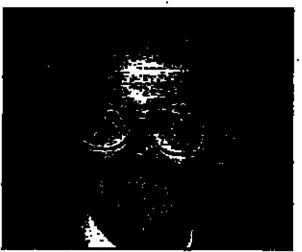
Soames may speak for the country and many in the towns: it is said that Jack Cunningham, the present Agriculture minister, is an *FT* fan, along with personalities such as the model Paula Hamilton, who came to grips with country life recently when she was bitten by a ferret.

But while petitions are being organised — Tim Dommett a cheese salesmen from Farnham, Surrey, has collected 300 signatures, "mostly from City commuters" — that will not be enough. If Boyle's plans are rubber-stamped by the governors next week, and if they include ploughing over *Farming Today*, it will need more than a dawn chorus of disapproval to save it.

NTI

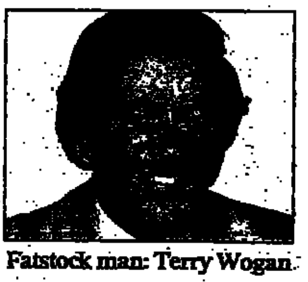
Sitting pretty, but for how long? Anna Hill, one of the early-bird voices of *Farming Today*

Addict: Lady Thatcher



Fan: Jack Cunningham

Bitten: Paula Hamilton



Fatstock man: Terry Wogan

BOYLE'S LORE

JAMES BOYLE, the controller of Radio 4, spent six months reviewing his programmes before drawing up plans for his revamp.

Nobody knows for sure what he has decided but there have been a number of apparent leaks from the BBC about what is to disappear from the airwaves.

Suggestions that up to 20 or 30 programmes are to go are almost certainly exaggerations, but there are likely to be a number of losses and major rescheduling of the survivors.

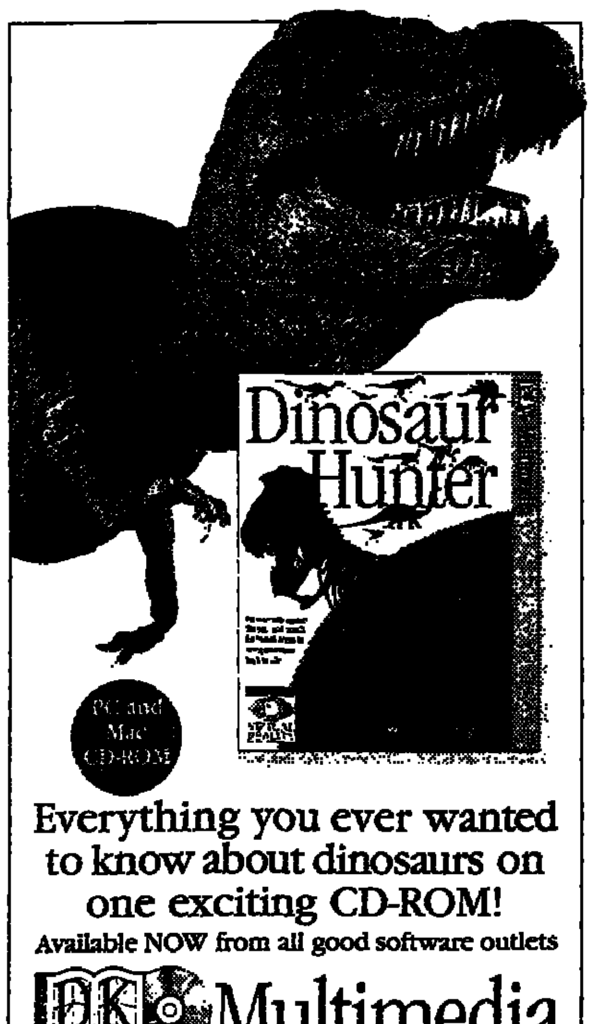
One of the strongest rumours is that *The Archers* may get an extra weekend edition. Those who believe this is being offered as a sop because *Farming Today* is to be either axed or truncated and incorporated into *Today* argue that this misunderstands agricultural broadcasting completely.

There have been questions in the Commons following talk that *Yesterday in Parliament* is under threat, and angry comment about suggestions that the format of *Start the Week* might be altered.

Staff at *You and Yours*, *Sport on Four* and *Breakaway* are said to be anxious, and Ned Sherrin may be at a loose end if his boisterous Saturday morning show goes, as some believe it will.

Kaleidoscope, *PM* and *Woman's Hour* may also find themselves in different slots.

D.W.



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هكذا من الأصل

Heath Brown on the mid-season transitional styles that are being tested on the high street

Blast of winter for the summer

The transitional season is upon us — that time of year when the fashion houses introduce a range of clothes between their summer and winter collections. They are not made up of the first delivery of the autumn/winter ranges, but of revamped pieces from summer as well as tasters of what is to come in winter.

"Having a transitional range gives us the opportunity to present a strong indication of the season to follow," says Angela De-sio of Jeffrey Rogers. "It also gives the customer new and exciting garments to wear."

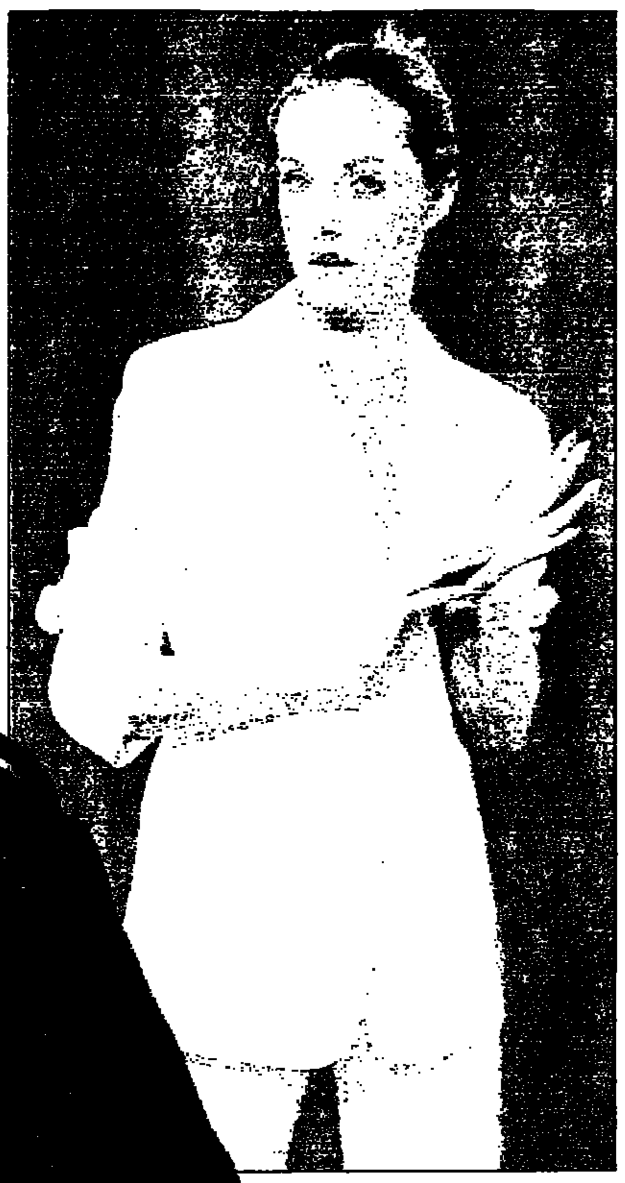
Labels such as Oasis, Laura Ashley, Warehouse and French Connection all do these ranges — whether they call them mid-season, cruise wear or transitional. Some labels, such as Gap and Next, are regularly stocking up with different fashions. "We are continually introducing new deliveries," says a spokesman from Next. "We can offer customers something different every time they come in."

It is also a trial period. As well as definite looks from the new autumn/winter ranges, new shapes, lengths and styles in a variety of colours are introduced to see which the customer likes best. At Marks & Spencer the popularity of certain colours is tested with different styles of T-shirts, and whichever one proves the most popular will be marketed.

When buying, go for anything in white — it looks good for the tail end of the summer and will be perfect for the incoming icy winter styles. Also lurex threading and hints of sparkle work for both daywear and eveningwear in unfussy separates — simple tops, T-shirts, trousers and jackets. For tailored clothes, choose pin-stripe, the new winter blockbuster, and skirts should be mini.

But remember, if you like it, buy it — for transitionals always have a short shelf-life.

Photographs by **Richard Burns**. Hair and make-up by **Sarah Gottschack** using Glauca Rossi Products (mail order, 0171-289 7485). Styling by **Amandip Uppal**



ABOVE: White cotton stretch jacket, £39.99; matching trousers, £29.99, Jeffrey Rogers, The Plaza, 120 Oxford Street, W1 and branches nationwide (01923 474400). Bright blue cap sleeve cotton T-shirt, £20, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124)

LEFT: Pinstripe crepe shirt dress, £30, Etam, 484 Oxford Street, W1, and selected branches nationwide (0171-494 4732)

Lilac/blue lurex stripe T-shirt, £30, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124). Denim A-line skirt, £24.99, Oasis, branches nationwide (01865 881986). Multi-coloured leather wedge sandals, £54.99, *Ravel*, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-631 0224)

Gold sparkle cotton vest, £30; gold silk embroidered trousers, £80, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 3124). Bright blue suede strappy mules, £185, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

THREE OF A KIND

TRAINERS are no longer just made for sport — welcome to the age of virtual training shoes for those in fashion's fast lane. H.B.

Black/white trainers, £54.95, Acupuncture, Office, nationwide (0171-221 9014)

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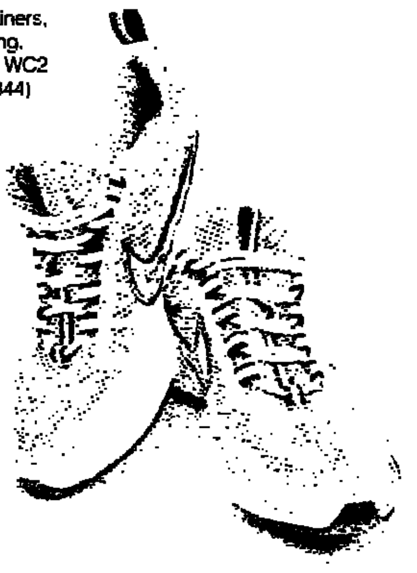

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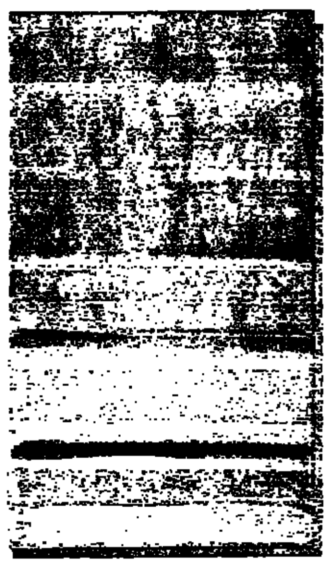

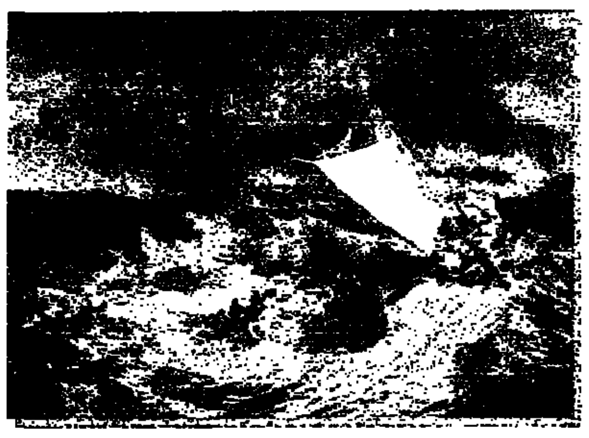

Today *The Times*, in association with the Tate Gallery, London, offers readers the exclusive opportunity to own poster-sized prints of the four famous paintings featured here for only £6.95 each, plus p&p, a saving of £2 per poster.

The four images, Heron's *Horizontal Stripe Painting*, Burne-Jones's *King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid*, Constable's *Flatford Mill* and Turner's *The Shipwreck*, are currently on display in the Tate Gallery as part of the Tate 100 Centenary selection.

The overall size of three of the posters is 60x80cms. The Burne-Jones is 40x80cms. They are only available by mail order and not currently on sale in the Tate shop.

As well as being part of the current Tate 100, two of the images are to be included in forthcoming exhibitions. The Burne-Jones will be in *The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts: Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910* which opens in October. The Heron is to be part of a retrospective next June.

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CHANGING TIMES

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q My garden is being overrun by a forest of mare's tail. I have tried most weedkillers but they kill only the present growth, and more shoots follow. What will kill the roots? — R.H. Bradley, Ruislip, Middlesex.

A Glyphosate, the chemical in the weedkillers Roundup and Tumbleweed, will see off mare's tail in the end, but it takes many applications. To get the chemical into the plant, the stems should be thwacked with a stick to break the skin. Apply the chemical to the mare's tail carefully using a rubber glove, because it will kill everything it touches. Serious colonies of mare's tail are very hard to eradicate and it is often necessary to dig out nearby plants and establish them elsewhere while you concentrate on weedkilling. If practical, consider laying porous land drains in the garden, because mare's tail prefers a soil with a high moisture level.

Q I am considering planting a wisteria by the front door, but I'm worried that the roots may damage the foundations. Is there a more suitable climber? — N. Boland Morley, London NW6.

A Go ahead. In 100 years wisteria can make a trunk like a small tree above ground, and it will be working pretty hard underground. But don't be put off. On a small or moderate-sized house, a well-managed wisteria is not going to have so much volume of leaf that it will be drinking the soil dry and causing significant shrinkage and movement. If you want to please the building insurers, you would have nothing at all sizeable on your house and "aggressives", such as wisteria and roses, would be banished to the bottom of the garden and replaced with containers of pansies. If the wall is sunny enough (south or west-facing), carry on with your wisteria. If you lose your nerve, *Clematis montana* has a more fibrous root system.

Q What is the tall, herbaceous plant which seeded itself in the garden last year? It has soft, rhododendron-sized leaves, strong branched stems and pink spikes of flower. — J.R. Annis, Winchester, Hampshire.

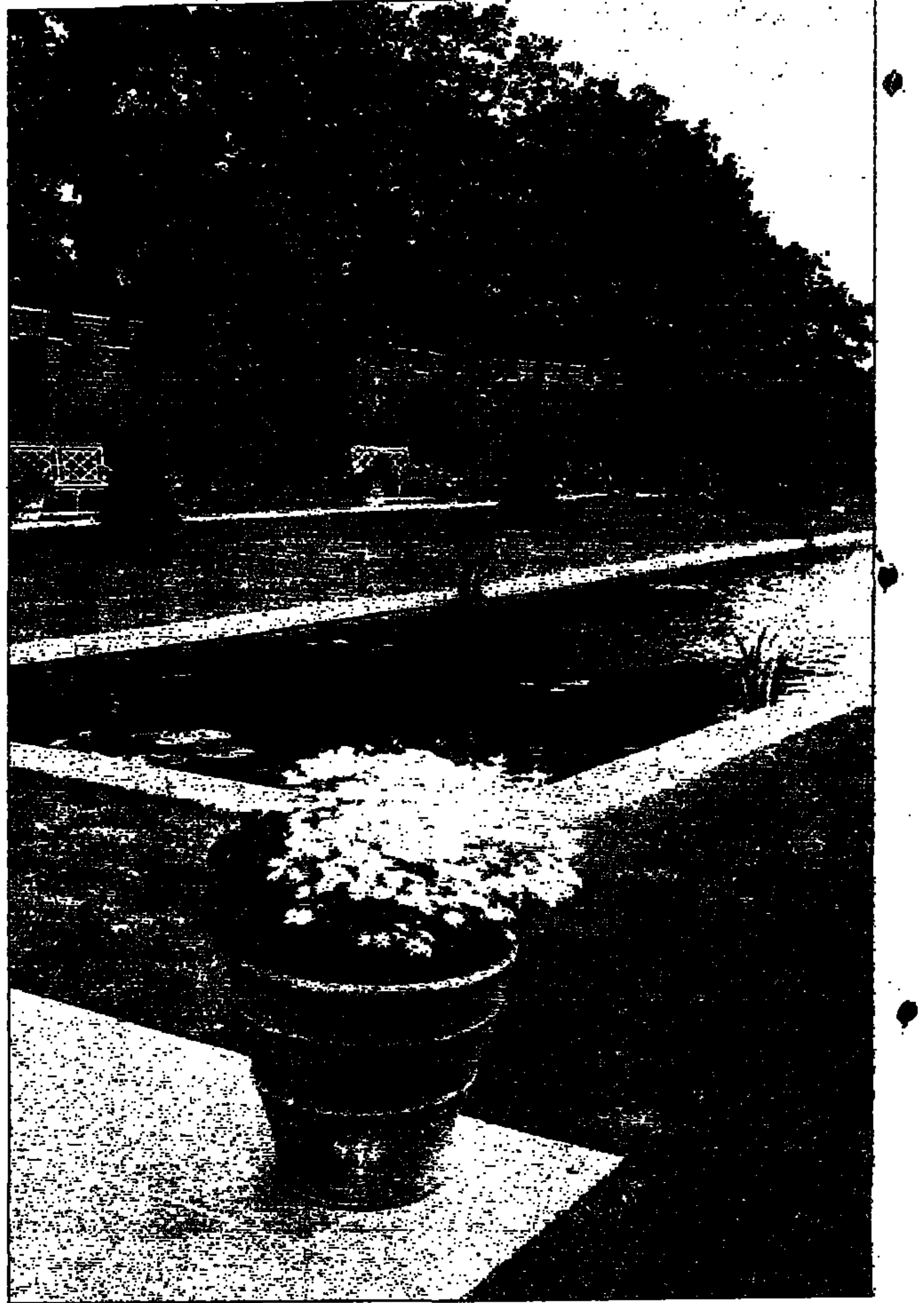
A It is *Phytolacca polyandra*, a wonderful plant for wild gardens. It will grow in the roughest and driest of soils. It dies down to nothing in winter but comes up again, with no support, to 6ft-8ft. Those fat stems suddenly fork sideways in two directions, leaving a flower spike in the middle. After the flowers come dark purple berries, which will self-sow in the garden — just as well, because it is not a long-lived plant, especially on rich soils where the root often rots in a cold, wet winter. Plant them small, ideally as seedlings, because a strong tap root is needed to support all that top growth.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

ANTHONY CRICKMAY

When told about the new garden at Walmer Castle to celebrate her 95th birthday, the Queen Mother (left) said: "I have been given many presents before, but never a garden"

DES JENSON



One of the first pictures of the new garden (right), which will be open to the public from next Tuesday. It shows one end of a central canal, which runs the length of the garden

Royal garden for all seasons

Stephen Anderton on the English Heritage birthday gift to the Queen Mother at Walmer Castle

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but what do you give a queen for her birthday? You can't go wrong, it seems, with a garden. In Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's words, "I have been given many presents before, but never a garden".

This month, the Queen Mother gets her new garden — and it will be open to the public from Tuesday. It was commissioned by English Heritage at Walmer Castle in Kent to celebrate the role of the Queen Mother as Warden of the Cinque Ports on her 95th birthday.

The birthday was two years ago, but you don't get a garden overnight. This one has been 18 months in the planning and building. Now that it is complete, will she like it? She ought to, because it has been designed by Penelope Hobhouse and Simon Johnson to reflect her interests.

It is a classical garden in every sense. Formal, bold and simple in layout, with the complexity coming not in the structure but in the detailed planting of long, south-facing mixed borders. And what a gift for a gardener: a walled garden sheltered by trees from the sea winds, but within 200 yards of the shore, so keeping frosts at bay.

The Queen Mother is known to be a roses woman more than a modern mixed border enthusiast. In the new garden the roses will come diluted in mixed borders, which will please the public. The perfume of roses should never be far away, in 'Nathalie Nypels', 'Buff Beauty', 'Heritage' and 'Graham Thomas'. And there will be plenty of those overpowering regal lilies, *Philadelphus* 'Avalanche' and 'Sybille', and rosemary.

The structure of the garden is based around the Queen Mother's life. The topiary castle on a turf mount and topiary pyramids on the lawn reflect her childhood at St Paul's Walden Bury, which has a garden of formal hedged allées influenced by the French Baroque style.

At Walmer, a central canal runs the length of the garden. Conveniently, a 95ft canal just fits in the upper part of the garden; 1ft for each year of her life till then. Just as well she was offered it while she still fitted the garden.

Stone for the garden has come from the Caithness quarry in Sutherland. It was from here that the Queen Mother bought the grey stone she used at her home there, the Castle of May, and at Walmer it has been used to edge the canal and for formal paved areas.

A summerhouse has been made at one end of the garden, where visitors can sit on specially designed benches. The lime trees at the bottom will soon hide the neighbouring modern canary-yellow house which overlooks the garden. (Somehow, one never thinks of the Queen Mother having neighbours. At least, not the sort you could wave to from the bedroom windows.)

A childhood spent in the grand gardens of the first quarter of this century would have made anyone long for roses. Such gardens then were designed to be spectacular when the family was in residence, but outside that period they could be drab.

Miriam Rothschild, doyenne of the present fashion for native wildflower gardening, is much the same age as the Queen Mother, but has been more of a hands-on gardener. She recalls the Rothschild gardens of her youth — gardens such as Waddesden and Mentmore — as being "all geraniums and orchids". It drove her screaming into the arms of wild gardening.

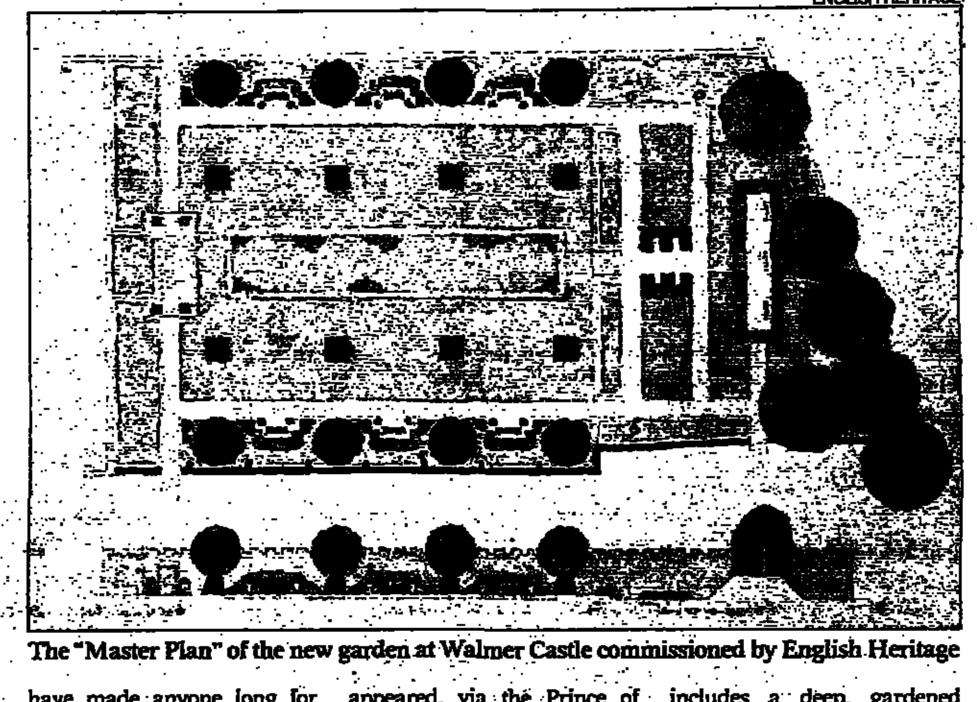
In the Royal Family, wild gardening has taken two further generations before it has appeared, via the Prince of Wales. But then he is a hands-on gardener, too. The Queen Mother is more predictable and less catholic in her taste. Some years after the war, when a new multi-coloured bedding scheme was tried out outside Buckingham Palace, she even requested that it be returned to King George's red.

In the past, Walmer Castle had a one-season garden, when the Lord Warden would come with his family for a summer visit. Even today it is aimed to be at full revs when the Queen Mother makes her summer visit, complete with a large staff and a vanload of furniture. But it is also an all-season garden. The new walled garden is only a small part of a design which has developed over centuries, and includes a deep, gardened moat, a cut-flower and vegetable garden, huge herbaceous borders backed by even bigger yew hedges, and a woodland garden with carpets of snowdrops, crocus and cyclamen.

The new garden is what writers of garden guidebooks call a "palimpsest", because it has been developed in layers, sometimes a new development overlaying an older one. This new garden at Walmer is a welcome development of an empty walled garden, and brings a touch of new, if not acutely modern, gardening to the site.

When English Heritage installs the intended modern sculpture in the topiary castle, it will have really completed its job. And I hope the Queen Mother will like that too.

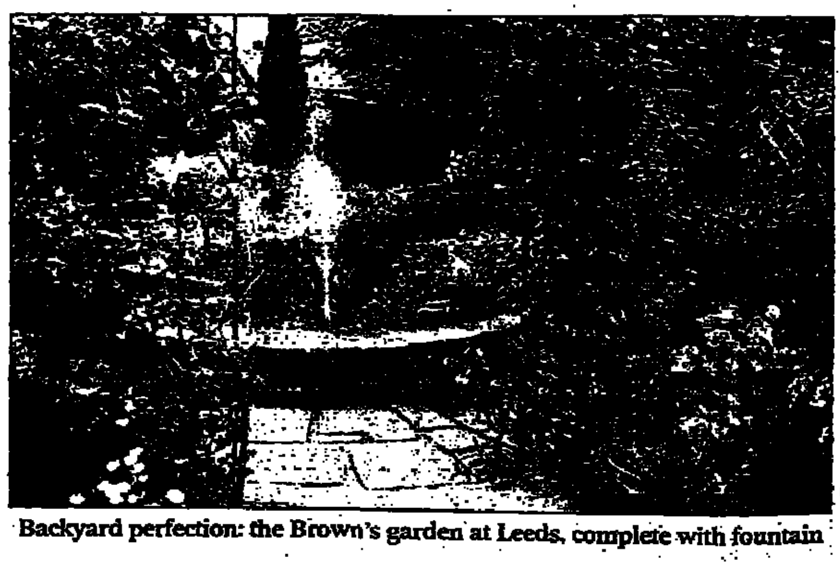
ENGLISH HERITAGE



The "Master Plan" of the new garden at Walmer Castle commissioned by English Heritage

Mix of history and landscape

OPEN THIS WEEKEND



Backyard perfection: the Brown's garden at Leeds, complete with fountain

■ **Ardchattan Priory, North Connel, near Oban, Argyll and Bute**

Ten miles northeast of Oban, cross Connel Bridge and take right turn to Ardchattan, on north side of Loch Etive. Open tomorrow for Scotland's Garden Scheme, 9am-6pm, then daily until Oct 30, 11am-6pm. £1.50, children free

Visitors to Ardchattan should stop for a moment to savour the approach, because the lochside setting is one of the most rewarding in Britain. On arrival the enjoyment continues, with the Priory, founded in 1230, giving the garden a sense of merging centuries of history with the landscape in the form of ancient grave slabs and memories of the last Gaelic parliament which met here.

The sheltered position makes the views out over Loch Etive — of which you could never tire — extraordinarily tranquil. As a result, a visit to Ardchattan Priory, apart from the garden which is notable on the west coast for its combination of immaculate lawn, herbaceous borders and roses, has a therapeutic quality that few places can better.

■ **30 Latchmere Road, Leeds, Yorkshire (0113 2751261)**

Off A6120 Leeds ringroad left into Fillingfir Drive, right at pillar box, left into Latchmere Road. Open tomorrow, July 27, Aug 3 and 10, 2-5pm. £1.50, children 50p

The art of small gardening is to achieve the balance between busily interesting and confusingly overcrowded. The former slips into the latter all too easily and, as most of us garden on comparably sized plots, it is instructive to go somewhere and see the balance emphatically well-achieved. The secret of success is the way in which one area or feature, despite the small-scale, links clearly with the others in the manner often applauded in much larger gardens.

In the Brown's garden at Leeds, this continuity provides the visitor with a reassuring sense of orderliness, making the individual highlights instantly effective. The planted sinks and alpines are ideally suited to the garden's scale, but the way in which usually larger-scale shrubs and herbaceous borders are incorporated is an adventurous surprise. So, too, is the ebullient collection of clematis that is at its best at this time of year.

Finally, the most rewarding ingredient for a small garden is water, and the pools here exemplify how the sense of space can be so instantly introduced.

■ **The Vyne, Sherborne St John, Hampshire (01256 881337)**

Four miles north of Basingstoke on A340. Open tomorrow, then Tues-Thurs, Sat and Sun to end Oct, 12.30-5.30pm. £2, children £1

There are references to wine being produced here by the Romans, hence the name. The originally Tudor brick house is memorable for its white portico. In high summer, looking across immaculate lawns that slope gently to the lake, the house and its setting present an unforgettable picture. You can enjoy the view from different angles by taking the path around the lake. A small area to one side of the house, enclosed by yew hedges, has a herbaceous border that exemplifies plant grouping and colour planning.

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The exotic cover story

With warmer summers predicted, it should be easier to grow those lush climbers, says **Barbara Abbs**

Vibrant images of cottages covered with dazzling cerise bougainvillea, fences near-invisible under the luminous orange trumpets of *Pyrostegia venusta*, the golden shower, or trees dripping with trails of palest pink Wonga Wonga vines are frequently among the memories we bring back with us from holidays in warmer climates.

The good news is that the run of warmer summers increases our chances of success with these exotic climbers which flower so vividly and luxuriantly in the Mediterranean and the tropics. In fact, they can be grown in Britain with little more trouble than it takes to grow pelargoniums.

Research by the University of Reading predicts that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere will continue to increase, leading to a rise in global mean temperatures of 2C by about 2050. Unfortunately, this does not guarantee frost-free winters, but it does mean that well-ripened plants have a better chance of surviving cold winters.

While conservatories and glasshouses are ideal for permanent and over-wintering tender plants, they are not essential. In Holland in the 17th century, when the rich merchants kept newly introduced exotics in ornate orangeries, people with less money protected theirs under a lean-to made of straw-packed hurdles. It is even easier today. Tender climbers planted against sheltered south and west-facing walls can be given additional protection with curtains of netting, horticultural fleece or bubble polythene. (Make sure that the roots are thickly mulched, as you would for a fuschia, and then, if the top growth is damaged by frost, new shoots will often appear from the base.)

Exotic climbers can also be grown successfully in containers. Indeed, some vigorous species, such as passion flowers or bougainvillea, can be more easily kept within bounds if confined in a pot. Guy Sisson at the Plantsman Nursery in north Devon, where there was 12 degrees of frost last winter, grows his extensive stock of climbing plants in unheated greenhouses. Even such glamorous ramblers as *Beaumontia grandiflora* survived.

He recommends several that can be grown in pots, cut down in late summer and stored inside for the winter. A cellar, garage or spare bedroom will do if the temperature does not fall below zero.

The plants should be kept very dry but not allowed to dry out completely. As soon as growth begins in the spring, plants kept in dark places will need to be moved into the light. New growth can be supported on canes or trellis.

Top of Mr Sisson's list is a perennial convolvulus, *Ipomoea indica*, with rich blue trumpets which turn purplish as they age. The woody stem should be cut back to 3ft-4ft and the plant brought inside before the frost. Keep it dry.

There is also *Mandevilla* x *amoena* 'Alice du Pont', with its glowing pink flowers which grow up to 4in wide. The stem can be cut back to within a foot before overwintering indoors in dry conditions.

Passiflora racemosa

Try the fast-growing *Thunbergia grandiflora*, which can be cut back to 2ft before the winter. It has trumpet-shaped flowers from pale to deep violet-blue, and must be kept in the light during the winter because it is evergreen.

The bower plant, *Pandorea jasminoïdes*, is also evergreen and should not be kept in a dark garage or cellar during cold weather. The pandorea has clusters of white flowers with rich pink throats and flowers for a long period.

One of the easiest plants to store over winter is the wonderfully exotic red and yellow flowered *Gloriosa superba*, or climbing lily. It grows from a tuber, which should be lifted and kept dry and frost-free over the winter.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Hardenbergia voilacea produces showers of small violet pea flowers in early spring

The climbing ragwort, *Senecio confusus*, has large orange daisies that age to red. This can be cut back to 6ft and should be kept on a bright window-sill during winter.

Slightly hardier are *Hibbertia scandens* with rich yellow flowers like single roses, *Kennedia rubicunda* with pea flowers of dusky coral and *Hardenbergia violacea* with showers of small violet pea flowers in early spring. These can be kept in a sheltered place over winter, wrapped in fleece or bubble wrap.

Westdale Nurseries in Wiltshire specialises in bougainvillea. The tiny white flowers of this plant are insignificant but the papery bracts in vivid colours are unmissable. It is available in shades other than the violent cerise of *B. glabra*, a colour I used to hate until I saw it growing on a white-painted cottage against a Mediterranean blue sky. Avoid using it against brick walls in our northern light, or try some of the subtler reds and oranges that are available. I grow *B.* 'Miss Manila' which looks bright enough to me, although described simply as pink.

Bougainvillea can be pruned back firmly and benefits from a cool resting period. If the temperature drops too low, however, it can be late in coming back into flower. For maximum flowers, give bougainvillea the sunniest spot. In a conservatory, and with careful management, it will flower more than once a year.

The climbing lily *Gloriosa superba* 'Rothschildiana'

Bougainvillea glabra

John Vanderplank's splendid displays of passiflora exhibited at the Chelsea and Hampton Court flower shows have demonstrated that there is far more to passion flowers than the well known *P. caerulea*. This is almost hardy but the flowers are not showy and, like many of its fellows, it is a rampant grower.

Less vigorous and more eye-catching is *P.* 'Incense', which is fragrant, equally tough and has violet petals and sepals with deeper violet filaments banded with white. *P. racemosa*, with long racemes of scarlet flowers, really needs to be under glass, preferably trained across the roof so that the flowers can hang gracefully.

Some of the smaller climbers can be grown in hanging baskets, where they will trail elegantly down rather than climb up. The beautiful Carolina jasmine *Gelsemium sempervirens*, with its strongly scented yellow flowers, can be grown this way.

Hoya bella, one of the few branching climbers, has a musky smell, white and maroon flowers, a small root structure and enjoys life in a hanging basket, as does *H. carnosa*, with umbels of pale pink velvet-petalled flowers.

H *carnosa* can also be pot-grown, with the long stems snaking round a small wigwam of cane. Be sure to keep these well-watered during the summer but like all other tender plants keep them dry during cold weather. Climbers in pots should be planted in a loam-based compost, such as John Innes No 2 or 3, with some added sand or grit. Peat-based composts are difficult to re-wet after they have been kept very dry, as these plants need to be over winter.

- *Suppliers: The Plantsman Nursery, North Wonson Farm, Throwleigh, Okehampton, Devon EX20 2JA (01647 231618). Catalogue £1.50.*
- *Westdale Nurseries, Holt Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1TS (01225 8633258). For a catalogue, send four first-class stamps.*
- *Reads Nursery, Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6QW (01508 548395). Catalogue, four first-class stamps.*
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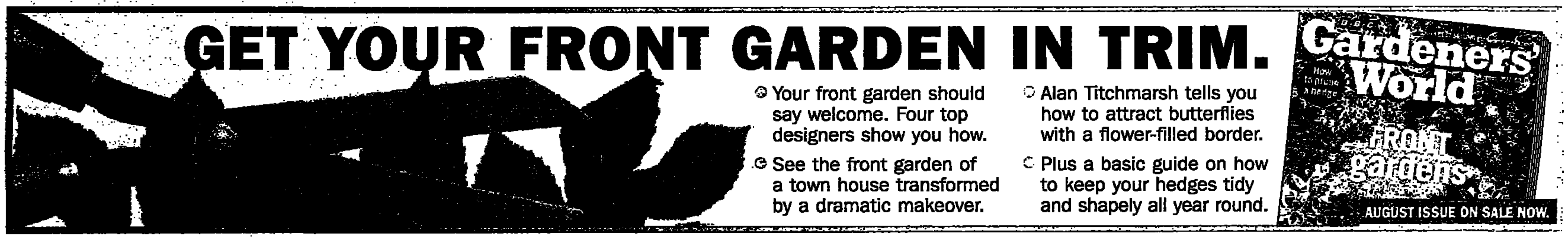

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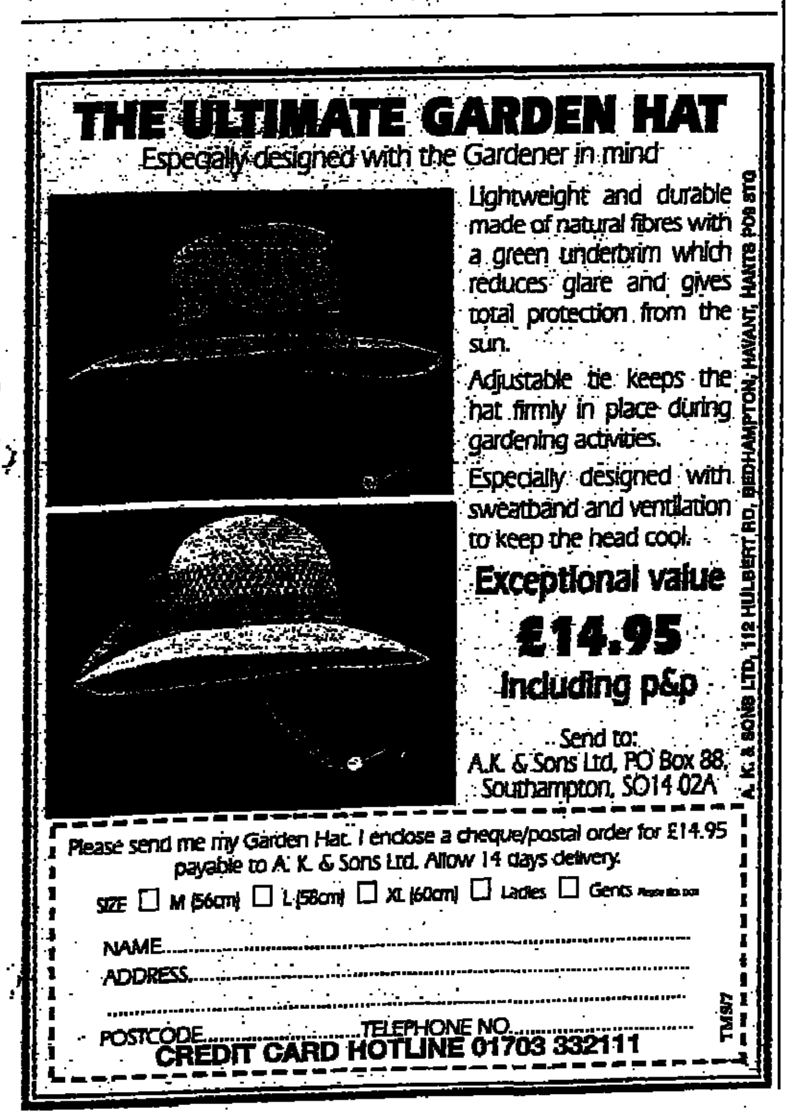

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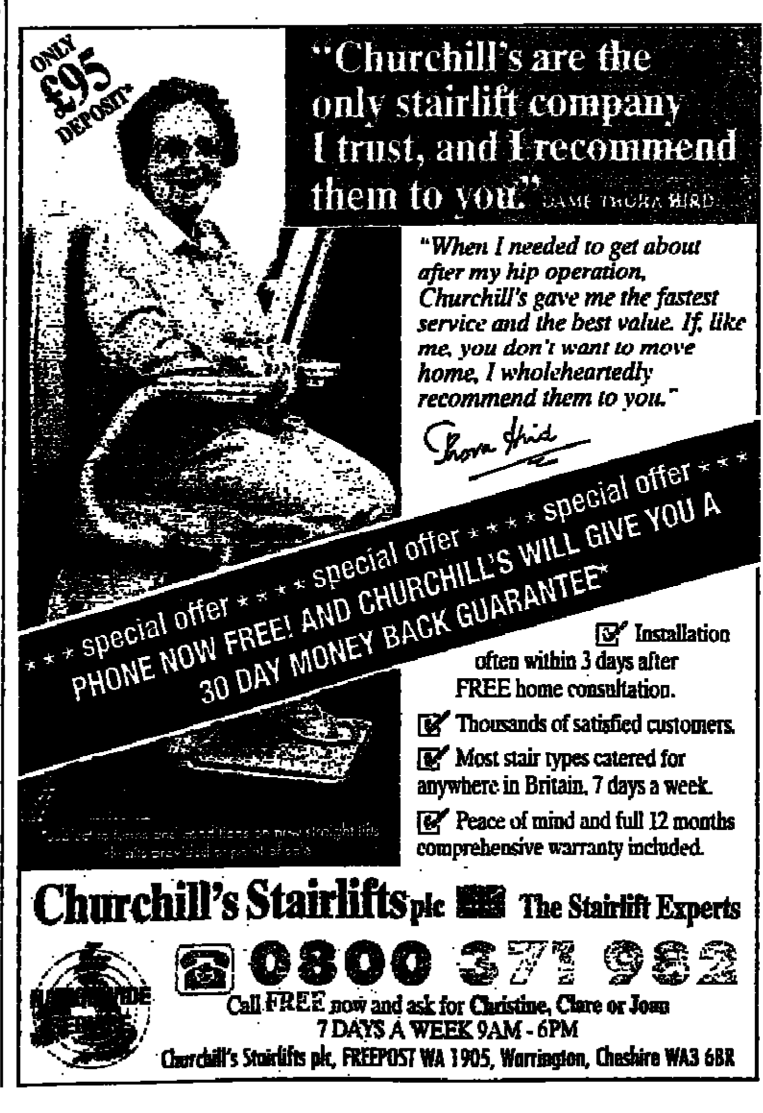

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Stephen Anderton meets the fruit lovers who are fighting to save Britain's threatened older varieties

KENT NEWS & PICTURES

Chris Godden shows off the results of the apple grafting at Brogdale

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

One of most beautiful sights of spring, an old apple orchard in full blossom, has become a rare sight. But the Brogdale Trust is encouraging a return to older varieties

Rootin' for old apples

What do you do if you want to replace that beautiful but ancient, and *perhaps unidentified*, apple tree soldiering on at the bottom of the garden producing delicious fruit year after year? How do you get it propagated?

One source of help is the Brogdale Horticultural Trust at Faversham in Kent, which is holding one of its "propagate-while-you-wait" days on August 3 when you can take along material from your own trees and have it "budded" on to heavy, pot-grown stocks (in spring propagating is done by grafting on to lighter, bare-rooted stocks).

You can even send in suitable, strong, year-old shoots for grafting. Or you can ask for trees to be *propagated from the 2,300 varieties* of apple in the National Apple Collection at Brogdale.

The collection includes many old varieties, a lot of which were in danger of being lost from the commercial market. One reason for this is that when old orchards of large, standard trees are replaced for smaller more manageable trees on modern rootstock, the replacement variety has most commonly been one favoured by the mass purchasers, the supermarkets. And so Gala, Braeburn, Granny Smith and Cox prevail.

But even the big stores are now becoming interested in unusual varieties, and Brogdale's specialist *fruit is also in demand at stylish* restaurants and emporiums such as Fortnum and Mason in London.

Brogdale has survived over the years by the skin of its teeth. It began life in 1924 as a joint fruit enterprise between the Government and the Royal Horticultural Society, and in the 1950s became a solely Government-funded fruit trialling station. Mainly because of the interest of the first director, "Jock" *Potter, apples were collected* on the 150-acre site. There were also collections of old varieties of pears, cherries, plums, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, nuts, medlars and vines.

The Government closed Brogdale in 1990, saying that the collections of old varieties were non-commercial. The neighbouring East Malling Research Station, working on fruit development, regarded the Brogdale collections as a health hazard rather than a valuable gene pool. Finally, and after serious questions in high places, the Brogdale Horticultural Trust was set up in 1991, buying out the land and collections from the *Government with both private and* local authority funding.

Today the trust operates as a small-scale commercial fruit farm and, with some help from the Government, maintains and promotes the National Fruit Collection which, because of previous planting, specialises in apples and pears.

The apple collection includes eating, cooking and cider apples, and the trust supplies propagation material to nurseries as well as private individuals.

Promotional work includes regular tours of the collections. There is a season-long programme of workshops and events for amateurs, at which Chris Godden deals with *pruning, grafting and orchard* practice (with a helper, Mr Godden can graft 25,000 buds on to rootstocks in six weeks).

There are also demonstration days when the attraction of apples in blossom, in fruit, and in the mouth are presented. The trust also has a postal fruit-naming service, at £10 a sample — invaluable for people who are not RHS members and cannot use its scheme.

But *is it possible to name* all the thousands of fruits sent to Brogdale? David Pennell, the director of horticulture, reckons to be able to get extremely close, or to at least narrow a sample down to two or three choices.

"Some are obvious. Others are almost impossible. Yet others may be simply good seedling apples," Dr Pennell says. "We can only make a judgment on the sample we receive, and that depends so much on the vigour of the tree. Old trees often carry untypically small fruit."

Dr Pennell regards most of the old varieties in the collection as *perfectly acceptable garden apples*, and would like to see more grown on a commercial scale. "They are nearly all easier to grow than a Cox, after all," he says, and is not willing to see the EU regulations on size blamed for the loss of old varieties in commerce: the apples have only to be at or above a certain size "typical for the variety", he explains. More important to growers are a high yield from young trees and a good demand for the variety. So "Ashmead's Colonel", for instance, will only ever produce 70 per cent of the volume of crop produced by a Cox. But to a gardener, volume is rarely significant. It is more important to have early and late varieties to avoid a glut, a range of flavours, and good clean stock on manageable sized trees. All of this is possible with old varieties on modern stocks.

At Pembridge in Herefordshire, the family *firm of* Dunkerton's Cider cannot get enough of the old varieties of cider apple to press. The firm presses 20 different varieties in an average season, and can make a single-variety pressing from as little as half a ton.

The value of the old varieties is not just in single variety sales but in blending. The firm is always on the look-out at cottage orchards for "Collington Big Bitters" and the very acidic "Foxwhelp". Meanwhile, the firm is planting new organic orchards of "Sheep's Nose", and "White Norman" valued for its heavy tannin. Ivor Dunkerton is convinced that there are plenty of small old orchards remaining in Herefordshire, but that many of the trees are virtually unidentifiable. He has to chase hard and wide to find the fruit he wants, and says: "It does not help that the useful books on cider apples, such as Hogg and Bull's *Herefordshire Pomona* of 1876, go to collectors at specialist auctions for £5,000 to £6,000. Most people who have an old orchard cannot afford that."

> 'The big stores are becoming interested in unusual varieties'

At least Brogdale can help to keep going some of these useful old varieties. But which old varieties ought a gardener to be planting?

Dr Pennell admits that even today there is a wide choice, albeit from a very few sources: "The tree has to suit the garden and the gardener. I tell everyone to think first about what kinds of apple they like, how far north they live and what the soil is like, and whether they want early or late apples."

It is only after narrowing down the field of choice that you can start to decide between a "Nez Plat" and a "Neild's Drooper".

● *Full details of the propagation and fruit-naming schemes are available from the Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ (01795 535286/535462).*

● *The following books are a good source of information on old varieties:* The Book of Apples, *by Joan Morgan and Alison Richards (Ebury Press, £22.50), lists and describes the Brogdale collection.* The Fruit and Vegetable Finder, *£7.99 from The Organic Gardening Catalogue, Coombelands House, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1HY (01932 820958), is in its fifth, and possibly last, edition. Best to snap up any copies you see.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- **Divide clumps of autumn-flowering colchicum bulbs before the summer rest is over and flower growth is induced by autumn rain. Single bulbs in grass or borders will soon build up again into clumps.**
- **Take cuttings of pinks, setting 3in-long shoots around the inside of a pot of sandy compost.**
- **Pelargoniums at the end of their flowering period may be rested for a few weeks with little water, before starting into growth again.**
- **Liquid-feed cucumbers, tomatoes and courgettes regularly.**
- **Ensure that all fruit trees do not lack water.**
- **Stake brussels sprouts in windy gardens. Spray potatoes for blight.**

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Create a little bit of paradise in Battersea

Jane Owen discovers a dramatic taste of the exotic — in the heart of London

PETER TRIEVNOR

Loretta Napoleoni and children in the subtropical garden

We are sipping coffee in a desert-like area dotted with succulents and the spiky grey forms of agaves, set off by splashes of vivid orange on the surrounding walls and a brightly coloured "Bedouin tent" of purple, green and yellow which gives a little respite from the heat.

It is dramatic and exotic and feels like California or Italy. But we are across the road from Battersea Park, south-west London, in a small garden owned by an Italian thriller writer, Loretta Napoleoni, and her City trader *husband, Ron Gerson, who* have two sons, Alexander, nine, and Julian, four.

They moved here three years ago and, unusually, started on the garden before redesigning the house. "I did not want an English garden of lots of little flowers," Ms Napoleoni says. "I was brought up in Rome and wanted a subtropical garden, but I am not a gardener and so I had to find someone to do it. This was difficult; I tried lots of people and then I read about a company called Avant Gardener and asked them to look at the garden. James Fraser came, and spent a long time here before coming up with this plan. We love it."

The garden had been typically English, with masses of roses, and a wartime Anderson air-raid shelter at its centre. For £12,000 it has been transformed into a subtropical paradise.

The wind blitzed in from a wide open area to one side of *the house, which is next door* to the drive and the roof garden of an old people's home, so trellis was erected and covered with climbers enclosing three sides of the garden — not the usual garden centre trellis, but horizontal *wooden battens discreetly* nailed to uprights. It is clothed in roses, golden hop, the evergreen clematis *armandii*, *Actinidia chinensis*, honeysuckle and the purple-flowered *Solanum crispum*.

Gloomy concrete stairs which plunge down into the defunct air-raid shelter have been painted orange to match the end wall of the house and a side wall, which has a door leading through to next door.

Designer James Fraser

The remaining cavity of the shelter is now the garden shed. Above it, decking steps and walkways lead up several levels to a top deck with a mosaic-pillared drinks table and a chair. Halfway up the decking a panel of greeny-blue diamond trellis framed in black makes a balustrade and a focal point above the orange-painted stairwell.

The garden faces south and west, so the main sitting area, *at the lowest point of the* garden where the family eats al fresco and entertain, is a heady suntrap. It is floored with huge irregular pieces of dark grey Welsh slate, which show off the low-growing crack fillers: woolly thyme, sedum, sempervivums and the New Zealand ground cover *Raoulia* which is tough enough to walk on.

In the surrounding beds there is a curious mixed planting of euphorbias, iris, bamboo, cow parsley, *Alchemilla mollis* and the small palm *Chamaerops*.

A large bed above the well of the garden and to the side of the deck has a white barked gum tree *Eucalyptus parvifolia*, some maize (which the children pick and eat), the grey-leafed, sweetly scented pineapple broom, purple pom poms of alliums, bamboos, and great clumps of specialist grasses — bluey-green *Festuca glauca*, *Carex testacea*, *Stipa arundinacea* and *S. gigantea*.

The garden is not yet complete and the next stage involves transforming the dull side passage into a jungly planting of wiry *Arbutas* x *andrachnoides* and black bamboo, with grey slate stepping stones. The planting will envelop a large conservatory.

Candles in glass holders are held high by iron spikes and these are supplemented by low-voltage uplights dotted in the beds to highlight plants. A computer-controlled automatic watering system has also been installed.

In line with Ms Napoleoni's brief, the garden has been designed to be so low in maintenance that it needs only four visits a year by Avant Gardener.

Mr Fraser, a New Zealander with a background in subtropical fruit growing who has been landscaping since he arrived in Britain in 1984, says: "I work for a lot of people who have neither the time nor the knowledge to keep things going, so when I build a *garden that is just a beginning*. But if a client is involved in the maintenance I may need to come back only twice a year.

"I have my own nursery where I grow on a lot of the plants that I import directly from New Zealand. Good planting is a key to good design and that depends on having the right plants and a good soil.

"Usually in London gardens, the soil is exhausted and has to be replaced but, in Loretta Napoleoni's garden, it was high quality. I try to be organic, but I sometimes use a little pesticide if I get a sudden aphid bloom or something," says the man who, on one occasion, spent a morning in Ms Napoleoni's garden squashing caterpillars by hand.

● *James Fraser, Avant Gardener, 16 Winders Road, London SW11 3HE (0171-978 4253).*

'I am beginning to wonder whether music connects directly with the very young in a way that is lost to us as we get older'

Enthralled by the power of music

LIFE AND SOUL

GINNY DOUGARY

Luciano Pavarotti has been awarded the same saintly status by the junior males of our household as Ruud Gullit. Ever since the boys saw the Three Tenors on telly some years ago, they have decided that "Pav is cool" and a night at the opera is a treat on a par with an afternoon at Chelsea.

Adoration, as far as the six-year-old is concerned, is most definitely blind. We once made the mistake of referring to his new hero's heft and he went ballistic. "Pavawotty's *not* fat, you bluts," he bellowed, employing one of his more belligerent self-coined profanities. "And, anyway, don't be so fat-ist," his older brother added sanctimoniously. Their parents, as so often happens these days, in the face of their children monopolising the moral high ground on everything from smoking to pollution, retreated into shamed-faced silence.

A few months ago, my mother — keen to score her first goal for high culture — booked us all into the front row of the Coliseum to see *Madame Butterfly*. The last English-language opera I had seen was Strauss's *Elektra*. I was 19 and it was not an enjoyable experience. The stage was dominated by a vast pair of scrap metal legs, against which various howling, hysterical women hurled themselves, singing such bathetic lines as "I've got a headache" and "get me a handkerchief". I'm ashamed to say that I giggled all the way through it.

But *Butterfly* is thankfully a far cry from *Elektra*. It was Susan Bullock's performance which got to me — her Cio-Cio-San is so sweetly convincing, without the showy "pretend" acting which can make opera rather disengaging — but the children were moved by the whole event. There had been some anxious looks when we took our seats, the boys being the youngest members of the audience by a fair few decades. But as soon as the orchestra struck up, they were entranced and remained so for the rest of the evening.

I am beginning to wonder whether music connects directly with the very young in a way that is lost to us as we get older. I have watched the boys watching *Young Musician of the Year* or even something quite difficult like Jonathan Miller's *Don Giovanni* on the box, and been struck by their absorption.

Their music teacher is — to use his pupils' highest accolade — "wicked". Here is a groovy young man with multiple earrings, a scary haircut and eco-warrior sensibilities who devotes a great deal of his own time and energy to composing music for school productions. Like all inspirational teachers, he has opened a door for the children, enabling even the most deprived among them to glimpse something bright and beautiful and enriching.

Our nine-year-old son was dismayed by the news that his favourite teacher was leaving. His own interest in music was sparked by an unlikely friendship forged during a long hot summer in France with a delightful 15-year-old girl whose grandfather had been Elgar's amanuensis.

It was a scorching afternoon and we had retreated from the sun into the cool indoors, when we suddenly became aware of a waterfall of music cascading down the corridor. Lottie had trespassed into the owner's living room and, seeing a piano, had been unable to resist the urge to play. Enchanted by the sound, our son went off to investigate and insisted that I come along. He watched and listened and bombarded poor Lottie with questions. At some point in the inquisition, he discovered that the lovely sounds she was making had come out of her own head.

Six months of piano lessons hadn't prepared him for this. Boing! It was like one of those cartoons when a lightbulb flashes above the character, as our son realised that you didn't have to be some historical figure in a frock-coat and pompadour to compose music. You just had to do it. And do it, aged five — to our astonishment, since his parents don't have a musical bone between them — he did.

For the past two years, he has been studying music at the Guildhall School. At the end of one term, the director of the prep department asked the parents to stay behind. It had just been announced that local government funding for children whose parents could not afford the sizeable fees was to be withdrawn. She was dismayed by the idea that this centre of musical excellence would now be available only to the privileged few, and took it upon herself to set up a fund so that other children would be given the same opportunity to flourish as ours.

She once taught music to a boy who was so lacking in educational skills that he could barely read or write. Had he not been offered a passport for escape, he would almost certainly have been condemned to the ranks of the unemployed. During his years at Guildhall, his confidence and musicianship soared. He is now a leading member of the Covent Garden orchestra — so could we please give generously? The next time we have a night at the opera, I'll be thinking of him.

SYGMA

Right royal revelations: Using a boat borrowed from Mohamed Al Fayed, Diana, Princess of Wales, has a full and frank conversation with members of the press in St Tropez

Those rats around the royals

It used to be a scoop for a reporter to get a quote from royalty. Nowadays, as veteran Diana-watchers told **Simon Freeman**, it has all gone too far

Andrew Morton had planned to spend the week tidying up the final draft of his biography of President Moi, the beleaguered Kenyan leader, which has taken him more than two years to write. But then Diana, Princess of Wales, the woman who turned Morton from a tabloid pundit on the royals into a multi-millionaire celebrity, intervened and he was asked yet again for comment.

In St Tropez on Monday, after zooming around on a jet-ski in a leopard-print swimsuit, she commandeered a speedboat moored off the villa of Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, the London store. He has been entertaining the princess and her sons, William and Harry. She steered past the boats manned by the continental paparazzi, whom she does not like, and headed towards a launch, hired by the elite royal specialists of the *The Mirror*, *The Sun* and *Daily Mail* to monitor her activities that day, and gave what, even by her eccentric standards, was an extraordinary press conference.

She gripped the hand-rail and told them they could not take pictures. But that did not matter, since other photographers were snapping away. With the story of how her sons believed she should leave Britain, the next day's papers carried an unusual picture of the working conditions of the royal rat pack.

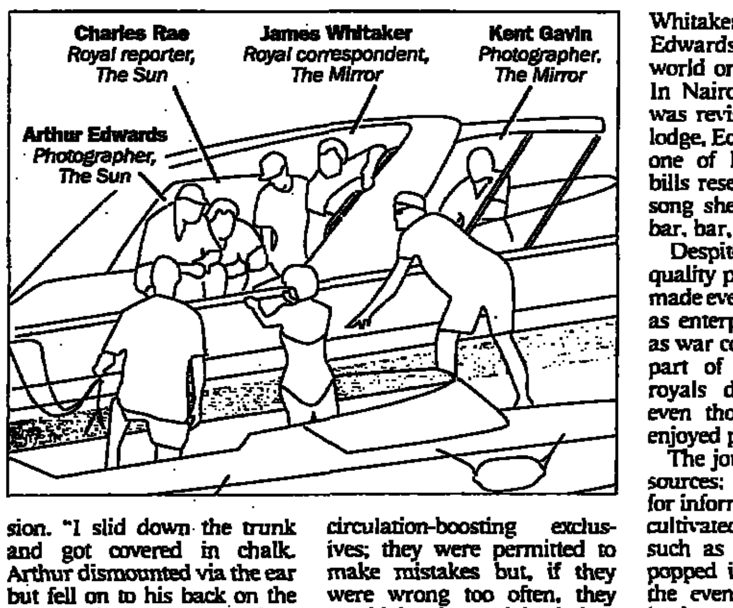
The boat they had hired for about £1,000 per day was far superior to Diana's, according to Andrew Bray, Editor of *Yachting World*. But with such sensational news under their belts these particular journalists could afford to indulge themselves a little.

However, Morton, whose book *Diana: Her True Story* has sold about five million copies around the world in 20 languages, does not seem to envy today's royal reporters: "The best days have gone. In the 1980s, when I was covering the royals full-time, the royal specialists on the tabloids were like white knights, going out to do battle every day for their editors. Every story we wrote made headlines around the world."

Harry Arnold, chief reporter on *The Mirror*, who was *Sun* royal correspondent for 15 years and broke the story of the Prince of Wales's romance with Lady Diana Spencer, agrees: "It's not as much fun as it used to be. In the heyday Charles and Diana had a sense of humour. We used to swap jokes. He called us scum, but we would retort that we were la crème de la scum."

Arnold relates the story of a trip to New Delhi when his photographer Arthur Edwards injured his back. "We had to get to the British High Commission where the Prince of Wales was holding a function. Arthur couldn't move and there were no taxis, so we found a tourist elephant decorated with pastel chalks. A ladder led up to the howdah."

They clambered on board in dinner jackets, but there was no ladder to help them dismount at the High Commission. "I slid down the trunk and got covered in chalk. Arthur dismounted via the ear but fell on to his back on the ground just as the Prince arrived." Charles related the incident with relish for days.



Royal reporters endured a heavy responsibility because they had to provide regular, circulation-boosting exclusives; they were permitted to make mistakes but, if they were wrong too often, they would be dumped back into the news room, where life meant standing on famous people's doorsteps. The rewards were huge. Stars of the pack — such as Arnold, James Whitaker, Kent Gavin and Edwards — travelled the world on unlimited expenses. In Nairobi, when the Queen was revisiting Treetops game lodge, Edwards remarked that one of his colleagues' hotel bills resembled a Beach Boys song sheet: "Because it goes: bar, bar, bar, bar, bar…"

Despite the sneers of the quality press that they simply made everything up, they were as enterprising and energetic as war correspondents. It was part of the game that the royals dodged and weaved even though, privately, they enjoyed publicity.

The journalists also needed sources; sometimes they paid for information, but often they cultivated insiders carefully, such as the bodyguard who popped into the hotel bar in the evening to brief trusted hacks on what Charles had said to his wife as they were skiing, swimming or sightseeing. (A typical nugget would be: "He was furious that she wouldn't smile on the ski slope. He told her not to be so miserable", thus providing the headline "Cheer up, Di!".)

Morton's book, however, changed the royal reporting landscape. He did far more than strip the remains of mystique from royalty; he revealed pain, misery and hypocrisy, which was fascinating but definitely not fun.

There were other repercussions. The quality press, which until then had regarded the young royals as an amusing soap opera, now thought their behaviour raised grave constitutional issues. The standards of reporting also changed irrevocably: Morton had named his sources, which meant others would have to follow suit. And, finally, rivals needed to trump Morton with even more shocking stories.

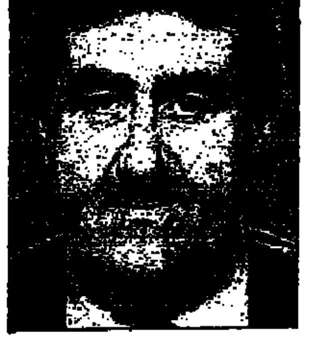
The veteran reporters in St Tropez this week yearned for the days when they would be hailed as heroes by their editors for crawling through a jungle to witness Charles and Diana sunbathing on a beach; now, they complain, their masters demand Watergate-style revelations.

Modern communications have added to the pressures. "In the old days, you went back to the hotel, developed your pictures, and sent them to London. Now you have to transmit them instantly before the freelances beat you to it," one journalist said.

A photographer, once a feared member of the royal press pack, also mourned for the days when it was a scoop merely to elicit a quote from a royal, warranting a tax-free bonus on expenses. "It's all gone too far now," he said. "You get Charles saying he committed adultery on television, and Diana saying she has had an affair. But the tabloids have to put her on the front page because she still sells papers."

There is still hope, however, in the shape of Prince William, 15. "He looks as if he might turn out to be a cracker. He's a real royal. He doesn't like the press, and isn't going to blub to us like his mother."

Arthur Edwards, The Sun: The grand old man of the rat pack is a well-built and ebullient Cockney sparrow. He claims to be Diana's favourite photographer. Because he "minded" the princess during her engagement in 1981, he claims to have taught her how to deal with the press.



Charles Rae, The Sun: A huge man and a teetotaller. The product of a Glasgow-Italian ice-cream dynasty, he drinks Diet Coke by the bucket. Truly professional and in constant combat with his reporting colleague Wayne Francis. Diana refers to him as Barney Rubble, the *Flintstones* character.

James Whitaker, The Mirror: Known to Diana as the Fat Tomato. Pompous, urbane but likeable. A man who shouts rather than talks, he is an army officer's son from Cheltenham. He has crawled through the bushes at Balmoral, and fixed up the Duchess of York's toe-sucking pictures.

Kent Gavin, The Mirror: Known to his friends as Gavers. He is another Cockney, though quieter and more enigmatic than Edwards. They claim to be rivals, but are in private the best of friends, frequently helping each other out. His friends claim he has had many private conversations with Diana.

Down in the engine room

Ruth Gledhill joins the monks at Ampleforth for Holy Mass

THE PURE, soft Gregorian chant of the *Sanctus* filtered through the arched altar canopy and around the gently domed choir. The novices, young men in their twenties, sat in black cowl and habit as the congregation, mostly visitors, retreatants and local parishioners, drank in the beatific atmosphere of Ampleforth Abbey.

The monks' chanting has been recorded in perpetuity on CD. *Vision of Peace* is about to win them a silver disc, having sold 60,000 since its launch in 1995. But here, the chanting, led by Brother Laurence, was not in aid of record sales but of a weekday Mass, the daily eucharist which underpins the life of the abbey and its school next door.

Ampleforth defies perceived convention in that it has a community of 100 monks, plus a healthy annual influx of young novices. Many work in local parishes or abroad. Of the 40 resident monks, most were in Lourdes where the new Abbot, Fr Timothy, 54, who was elected in March, is spiritual director to pilgrims. But the novices remain in the monastery throughout the summer.

Our celebrant was Fr Paulinus, in his second year in the novitiate and formerly a parish priest in Liverpool. The church was bare with few statues. There was no incense, or Stations of the Cross, and just two strokes of the bell at the Consecration.

FR PAULINUS said the "grace" and prayed for "purity and strength" as we prepared to celebrate. We confessed our sins, and prayed that we might follow the example of St Bonaventure, the 13th-century Franciscan whose feast day it was. Brother Columba, who paints icons in the traditional Orthodox style, read from Exodus and Brother Kentigern read from Matthew. Fr Paulinus preached. "The miracles of Jesus invited faith, but very often they provoked the opposite." He asked why this gift was rejected. "Our hearts are very complex and easily deceived. Faith is essentially simple and seeks out the child-like."

The Catholicism we were enjoying dates back in unbroken line to before the Reformation. The abbey's alumni are at the heart of the British establishment. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was formerly abbot here. Famous old boys include Frank Muir, Piers Paul Read, Lord Nolan and Phillip Lawrence.

It is no coincidence that the Rule of St Benedict, on which the monks model their lives, is today being adapted by some multinational companies as the latest modern management formula. Ampleforth is an example of how the ancient Benedictine model of community life, one based on spiritual values, can give rise to a thriving, vital and profitable entity.

The school, founded in 1812, has about 600 boy pupils. More than 10,000 visitors stay overnight at Ampleforth each year, many on retreats under the spiritual direction of the monks. The abbey is the biggest local employer, with more than 350 lay people working in its two schools, its dairy farm, its 3,000-acre estate and at its Redcar farm youth hostel.

IN A NEW scheme this summer, dozens of boys and girls from northern parishes are staying at Ampleforth, being trained by international coaches across a range of sports. But as Blaise Davies, formerly a member of the community and now in charge of the Redcar hostel, explains, the church is central to the enterprise. "The choir, the Mass, is the engine room," he said. "It puts everything into context. From here, the monks go into the parishes, the community, the school. The prayer feeds and sustains it."

Mass over, the monks filed into the privacy of the cloisters. The wheels were turning and soon everyone would be hard at work. By the end of that day I was 250 miles away, surrounded by traffic fumes, tall buildings and noise. But staying with me still, but barely detectable, were the unmistakable strains of the *Agnus Dei*.

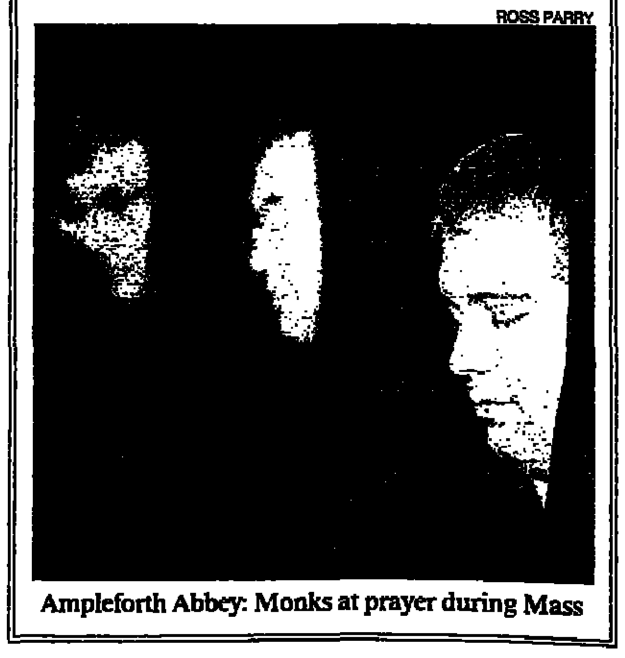
● *Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO6 4EN (01439 766765).*

AT YOUR **SERVICE**

★ *A five-star guide* ★

ABBOT: The Right Rev Timothy Wright
ARCHITECTURE: Gothic style by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. ★★★★
HOMILY: How to understand the simplicity of faith ★★★★
MUSIC: Gregorian chant ★★★★
LITURGY: By the monks, simple and effective. ★★★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Holy. ★★★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, retreats, confession and spiritual direction available ★★★★★

ROSS PARRY

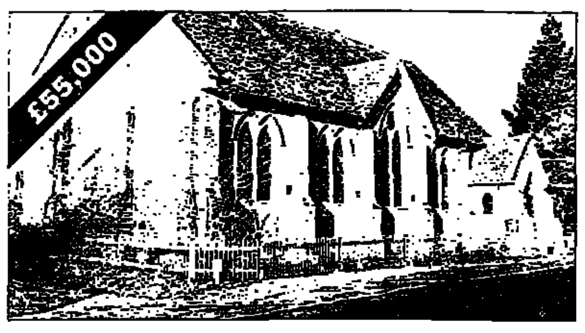


Ampleforth Abbey: Monks at prayer during Mass

FOR **SALE**

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
The Old Church, Aston Magna, near Moreton-in-Marsh. Converted early English-style Grade II listed Cotswold village church, with garden and paddock. Five bedrooms (one with galleried sleeping area), dressing room and en suite bathroom, a further bathroom, drawing room, dining/family room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and utility. Tower with shower-room and belvedere. Triple garage. About £325,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01386 840224).



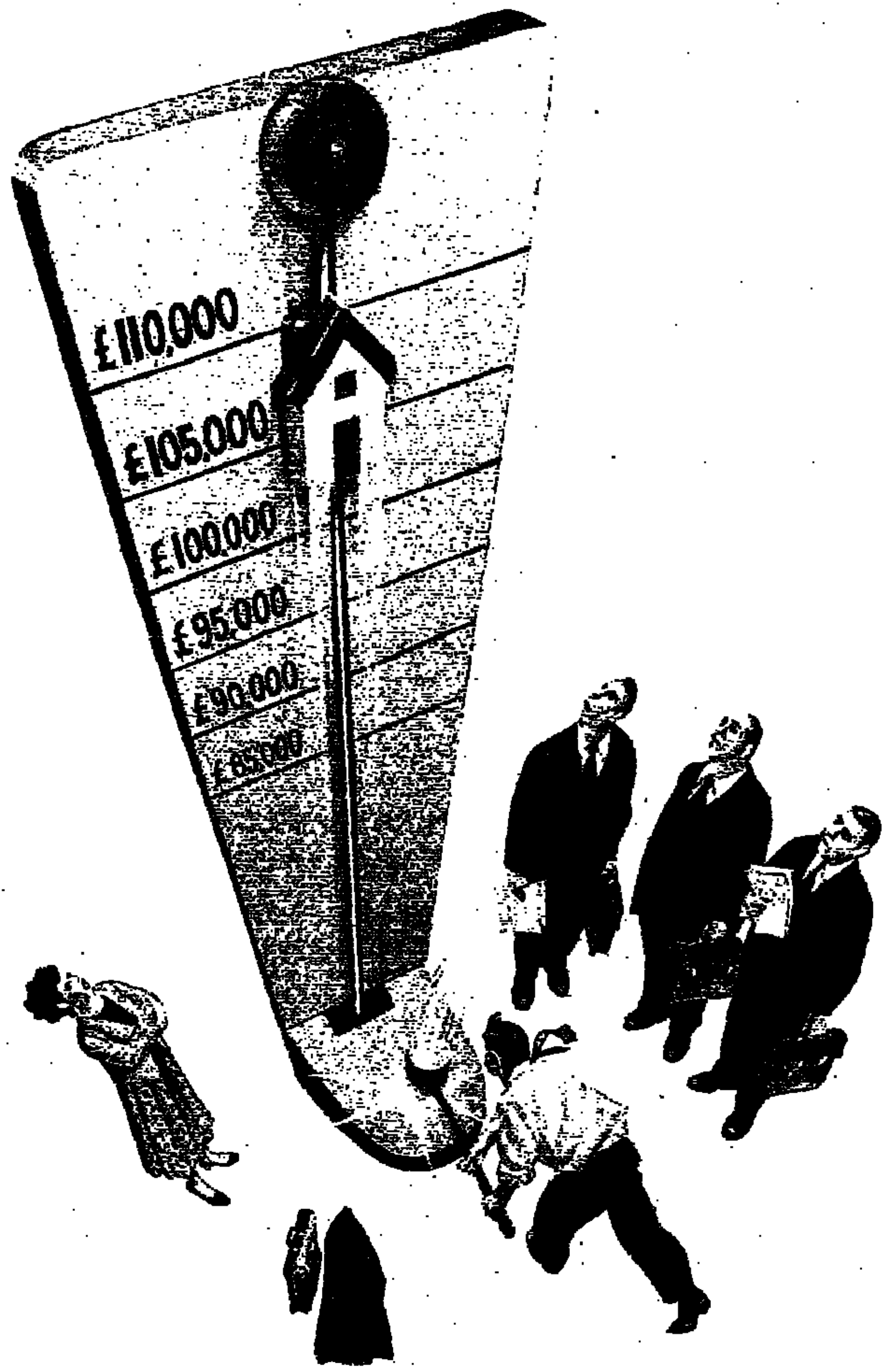
EAST SUSSEX
Former Methodist Church, Main Street, Peasmarsh, near Rye. Former Methodist church with planning consent to convert to a detached three to four-bedroom house, with enclosed courtyard garden and garage. About £55,000 (Phillips & Stubbs, 01797 227338).

DEVON
The Old Chapel, East Portlemouth, Salcombe. Former 1930s Methodist chapel with a small garden and parking area, in an unspoilt village overlooking the Salcombe estuary. The present owner has plans to convert the building to a two-storey four-bedroom house with a large store at lower level. The guide price for the completed house is £195,000 (Marchand Petit, 01548 857588).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Florence Lavender found that estate agents' prices and professionalism can vary wildly

Is your home valued right?



ROY ELLSWORTH

It is easy and fashionable to sound off about estate agents. After all, they play an elaborate game. They set themselves up as experts with in-depth knowledge of the local market, but the bottom line is that they do not know what your house is worth.

Nonetheless, they authoritatively produce a specific price or suggest a £5,000-wide band, based not only on their perception of what your home will fetch, but also on their particular approach to making valuations.

They could quote a higher guide price, hoping to appeal to your greed. They could aim low, on the grounds of a quick, painless sale. Or they could opt for the middle ground, maybe looking for an element of competition to achieve better than the asking price.

So when I recently considered putting my home on the market, I was interested to compare the reactions of four local agents.

I live in a pretty, modest but well turned out one-bedroom flat with a good smattering of original features, part of an unremarkable Victorian conversion in a quiet, leafy corner of a popular part of north London. I paid £70,000 for it three and a half years ago, in the days when buyers could haggle and sellers cleaned the bath and brewed fresh coffee when viewers were expected. It would suit professional twentysomethings very nicely.

Even on the phone the differences in the agents' responses were detectable, ranging from weary acquiescence to undisguised enthusiasm.

There were some similarities. All the agents' standard fees were 2 per cent inclusive of advertising, though one said he'd be prepared to talk about it if he were instructed, and another was so keen to take on the job that he dropped to 1.75 per cent as soon as I raised the subject. And all admired the flat — "lovely high ceilings, wonderful outlook, all those Victorian features . . . there'll be no problem finding a buyer," they enthused. But a buyer in how long? And at what price?

Agent A marched round, with barely a glance at my rather smart bathroom, and made no notes. Did I have any idea what price I wanted for the place, she inquired. No, I said, that was why I had asked her over. She quoted an unhesitating £90,000-£95,000.

When I asked about marketing plans, she said that wouldn't be necessary. It was difficult to say how long the sale would take; better that I concentrate on finding something I wanted to buy first. Could she interest me in details of a couple of places round the corner?

Agent B was the model of a seriously besuited estate agent. What a wondrous flat, he cooed, what a tremendous bathroom. It would go on at £100,000, though he anticipated offers between £95,000 and £105,000.

This was a professional act, energetic, heavy on the importance of strategic marketing, touchingly enthusiastic. I was promised "a comprehensive marketing strategy".

"I could find a buyer in a week," he said, "but I'd rather take the time to do it properly. And that means taking a view on the strength of the bidders." He left me feeling as though my flat was worth a couple of million, but also vaguely uneasy that I was being conned.

In comparison, Agent C came across as a refreshingly regular bloke-next-door. "It's a nice flat," he said, "but the most important element of any property is its location — and this is a nice street in an extremely popular area."

So? "I'd put it on at £110,000. There's so little about and the market is strong." The flipside of an extra few thousand would be the time: "Four to six weeks to get the right number of people through."

By the time the fourth agent arrived, I was feeling pretty cocky. "It's immaculate," he said, after measuring, scribbling and opening things with a single-mindedness shown by none of the others. "£85,000. Or perhaps £89,950 at a pinch." Not a flicker of surprise crossed my face. I asked casually about marketing and was regaled with the titles of various publications. "This flat's so nice it'll sell to the first person coming round," explained Agent D.

What about getting a few more through and having them fight over it? "I'd prefer to get just one offer, and I can do that with the first person I bring round because we make a point of knowing our clients' needs." Funny, I'd thought I was his client: but my needs for £100,000-plus appeared to be going unrecognised at this point.

With valuations varying by £25,000 and philosophies ranging from laissez-faire to deeply inflationary, I was bemused. Financial rationale, coupled with the belief that these people ought to be doing some hard work for their cut of the proceeds, limited the choice to the two highest quotes, from agents B and C.

Should I succumb to my greed and the casual charm of blokey Agent C, and run with the highest price with the hope of an eventual bite, but the risk of a long, slow campaign despite this quick-fire market? Or should I give in to the shiny hype and professionalism of Agent B, on the grounds that his valuation policy would reflect the real market value of the flat? Or should I just count my blessings and stay put in my desirable little piece of real estate?

Postscript: The week after Agent D had visited, I received a letter of confirmation from him — pretty standard practice, except that this one quoted a price of £95,000, which was £5,000-£10,000 higher than the figure he cited in our discussion. I had mentioned to him during his visit that his was the lowest guide price I had been given, and that the highest was some £20,000-£25,000 higher: food for a little retrospective readjustment?

HOW THE AGENTS **MEASURED UP**

	A	B	C	D
Price quoted	£90-95,000	£100,000	£110,000	£85-89,950 "at a pinch" (later £95k)
Strategy	no ads, a few calls	"we'll find the best buyer"	get the punters through	anything for an easy life
Attitude	not motivated	keen as mustard	quietly confident	out of his depth
Fee	2%	2% "but we'll talk"	2% "we'll get the price up"	2% "OK 1.75% then"

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER ST. 2 bed flat, new kit, bath, clkrm, lift, p/b blk, porter, £195,000. 0171 724 9919

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lists. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 833 1104.

BAYSWATER Charming 2 bed Victorian apt. Original features £170,000. 0171 221 9044

CHISWICK End of terrace, 3 dble bedrms, new shaker kit, wood flrs, 2 baths, good size gdn. £279,000. 0181 742 8601

DEVONSHIRE street W1 lge 3 bed flat, kit/b.fast/rm, bath, guest wc, 1st fl, needs updating, 27 yr lse. £179,950 Baron Estates. 0171 935 6648. (sole agent)

EARLS CRT SW5 Bright 1st flr 1 dbl bd flat high ceilings orig feats 3 mins Earls Crt tube £120,000 Lhold 0385 918056

LANCASTER GATE W2 Stunning 2 bed 2 bath 2nd flr conversion with lift o'looking Hyde Pk. Magnificent south facing reception, period features. Lux kit, lg roof terr/flat roof. All beautifully presented. £379,000 Lsehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612

HAMPSTEAD NW3
A luxurious and spacious first floor flat 3/4 bedrooms. 2 bathrms. 2 recepts rooms, orig fireplaces, 10' high ceilings, large kit/brek, util room, tastefully refurb'd to a high standard. Presented in exc condition throughout. £359,000. Share of freehold
0181 444 0815 or 004122 7382215

MAIDA VALE W9 Extremely spacious 2 dbl bed lower ground flr mansion flat, close to Clifton Rd. 23' reception, 20' main bedroom, £149,950 Share of Freehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612

MARBLE ARCH Macready House. Lux pb blk, lift, port, gym, jacuzzi, 3 bed 2 bath pkg space £340,000 0171 724 9919

10 MINS HOLLAND PARK
Detached double-fronted interior designed house with carriage driveway. 3 reception rooms, 5 double bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cellar. over 100ft garden. £675,000.
Tel:0181 7400 961.

LITTLE VENICE
Spacious and Elegant Upper Maisonette in a grade II listed White Stucco treelined terrace. Drawing room 20x19, open fireplace, dining room 16x14 (4th bedroom), 3 double bedrooms 20x18/20x16/15x12, 2 ensuite bathrooms, shower room. Private 40ft South-West facing roof terrace (in the treetops overlooking 1 acre of communal gardens).
112 year lease, share of freehold.
£625,000
0171 286 6831

MARYLEBONE, NW1 Excellent 1 bed period conversion close Regents Park, £112,500. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

PIMLICO Smart 2 bed Mansion apt. Tube & River 1 min. £118,000. 0171 221 9044

PIMLICO, SW1. Selection of newly refurbished 1 and 3 bed flats for sale. 0171 630 0082

REGENTS PARK, NW1. Bijou 1 bed pied-a-terre with patio and underground parking in Crown Estate, close to tube. £137,500. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8. Excellent 3 bed apartment in prime portered block, near High Street. Must sell. £275,000. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

ST STEPHENS GDNS W2 1 bed raised grd flr flat, high ceilings £129,950 Lhold Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612

SW1 REPO 3 bed mansion flat 21 day sale below market price. £250,000 0171 932 0101

WARWICK SQ, SW1. Penthouse - 3 beds, 2 bath, 2 balc. Use of Sq & tennis crt. 0171 630 0082

GREAT ROOF GARDEN
Overlooking Hyde Park
Secluded luxury penthouse. Top 2 floors of p/b block. lift, 2 beds, 2 bath (1 ens), kitchen, dining room, drawing room. Porter, secure garage space. Underground 5 mins. Lease 61yrs renewable. Offers over £475,000.
0171 584 6759

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NORTH OF THE THAMES

W2 Bright & spac 3 bed top floor mais in period bldg. £225,000 Westways 0171 792 2167.

WESTMINSTER, SW1 Prestigious three bed Georgian House. Good cond. Leasehold £410,000. 0171 820 0123.

W2 Mod 4 bed 2 bath mews hse req refurbishment £239,950 Westways 0171 792 2167

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

CLAPHAM SOUTH, SW12. Spacious 2 dble bed flat in mansion block. Comm gdn, pool, porter and gym. Leasehold £107,500. 0171 820 0123.

CLAPHAM COMMON, SW4. Excellent cond. 3 storey, 4 bed terraced period hse. Freehold £325,000. 0171 820 0123

KENNINGTON/OVAL SE11. Impressive 4 storey period hse. Highly sort after location adjacent to Underground. Original features. 3 bed. 3 Recp. Gdn. Freehold. O.I.R.O. £280,000. 0171 820 0123.

OVAL, SW8 Detached 3 bed Georgian cott. Excellent cond. Close u/ground. Original features. 2 recps, conserv, gdn. Freehold £249,950. 0171 820 0123.

PUTNEY lge 1st fl, 1 bed flat, mod kit & bath, LH, £75,000 no agents. 01923 228588.

PUTNEY SW15 Very spacious 4 bd 3 bath, 2 rec, garage, gdn, h-tec £820,000. 0181 780 5660

PUTNEY River view, 2 bed flat. Popular mans block. Orig features. £142K. 0181 7890754

ROEHAMPTON Fine 6 bed Edw semi with 2 lge recs, new kit/brk, 2 bths, shwr rm, 70ft westerly gdn. Quiet street. Easy parking. £430,000. Allen Briegal 0181 780 0077.

WATERLOO, SE1. Luxury flat within County Hall. Two beds. Two baths, High spec. Com Pool & Gym. Leasehold £225,000. 0171 820 0123.

KENNINGTON
Beautiful, sought after, ex Duchy family house in quiet square. 3 double bedrooms, 2 en-suites. 4th bedroom/study, bathroom, 2 receptions, kitchen, landscaped garden. Division bell. Freehold.
£260,000
Tel:0171 7357364

YORK MANSIONS
PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE
Spacious first floor flat with direct views over Battersea park. 3 double bedrooms; 2 bathrooms (1 ensuite); 2 reception rooms. Recently refurbished. 989 year lease Plus share in freehold. First class Mansion Block with porterage. 5 mins to BR stations to Victoria and Waterloo
£319,000
Tel: 0171 720 5969

DULWICH VILLAGE
Superb 2 bedroom cottage in heart of village, walking distance to BR station, 13 mins to London Bridge. Bathroom, FF kitchen, living room, small garden.
£129,000, no chain.
0181 761 3844

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BARBICAN Sales specialists. For full list of flats for sale call Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

COVENT GDN Neal St, large studio flat, potential to make 1 bedroom £125,000 STC. 0171 581 1631 t

FLEET ST EC4 One bed flat in mod development twixt Fleet St & Gough Sq £125,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CITY & WEST END

LUDGATE CIRCUS EC4 Last remaining flat in new conv. 1st flr studio approx 553 sq ft. £110,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

W1 1, 2 & 3 bed flats. 125 year leases in brand new period conversion. From £175,000 to £326,000. 0171 224 0959.

Winkworth
BLOOMSBURY WC1
1 double bed mansion flat, 1st floor over looking Red Lion Square, lift. £120,000
1 double bed 3rd floor modern block, video entry phone, lift, long lease. £135,000.
Top floor 3 double bed duplex flat. Private patio, lift, porter & secure underground parking. £350,000 stc.
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SPLIT LEVEL 3 BEDROOM FLAT WITHIN VICTORIAN CONVERSION JUST 8 MINS FROM LIVERPOOL STREET AND 2 MINS WALK TO PARK AND ALL AMENITIES.
15' living room with feature fireplace, original sash window, separate dining room. F/fitted kitchen with french doors leading to spiral staircase to shared garden.
990 YR LEASE WITH OPTION TO BUY FREEHOLD. £132,000.
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0171 782 7761 (W)

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75 year lease.
£ P.O.A.
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BLACKHEATH PARK A bright & spacious 2 bed apartment in private road. 22' recep, beautiful south fac gdns. OIRO £220,000 For positive & immediate sale. James Johnston Property Agents 0181 852 8383/858 9986 (Open 7 days) or 0385 555777 anytime

FULHAM

DAWES VILLAGE SW6 4 bed, 2 bth refurb hse £335,000 Squire Radcliffe 0171 381 3553

DAWES VILLAGE 2½ bed hse with roof terrace £239,000. Squire Radcliffe 0171 381 3553

FULHAM SW6 Immaculate, 3 dbl bedrm f/hold hse on Epple Rd / 30 sec walk to Parsons Grn Tube. V close to local amenities. Brand new kit & bthrm, antique oak fixing down stm. Tel:0171 736 3048(h)/0385 312500(m)

HURLINGHAM ROAD
Family house, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, study, double reception, dining / kitchen, cellar, small garden.
To Let: £600pw or
Sale: £450,000 ono.
No agents
Tel: 0171 731 5601
after 6pm weekdays.

FULHAM

FULHAM BORDERS Unmod 2 bed cott £140-£150k, gdn, Squire Radcliffe 0171 381 3553

HURLINGHAM ROAD
Family house, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, study, double reception, dining / kitchen, cellar, small garden.
To Let: £600pw or
Sale: £450,000 ono.
No agents
Tel: 0171 731 5601
after 6pm weekdays.

SW6 RIVERSIDE PENTHOUSE
Spectacular terraces & reception rooms. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloaks. Garaging for 2 cars. Very long leasehold. Portered block with swimming pool. £485,000.
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WELLINGTONS
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Studdridge St £575,000
Bovingdon Rd £615,000
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Lilyville Rd £645,000
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DOCKLANDS

SURRELL'S WHARF E14 1 bedroom apartment with balcony, part wooden flooring, communal leisure facilities. £103,995 L/hold. 0171 480 6815

NARROW STREET 2/3 bed apartment, 2 en-suite bathrooms and guest cloakroom, bed 1 16'8 x 9'9, 24' gallery, garage. £224,995 L/H 0171 480 6815

WAPPING 2 bed warehouse apartment with 27' x 24' reception with wooden flooring, fitted kitchen, secure parking space, 24 hr porter. £235,000 L/hold. 0171 480 6815

ST KATHARINE'S DOCK 3 bedroom maisonette, kitchen /diner, patio garden. £137,995 L/hold. 0171 480 6815

WHITECHAPEL E1 One bedroom apartment with private patio garden, parking space. £73,500 L/hold. 0171 480 6815

HAMPSTEAD

HAMPSTEAD, NW3. Lge 2 double bedrm top flr flat, fitted kitch, share freehold. Use of garden. £189,950 ono. 0171 431 2141

ORNAN ROAD Spac 3 dbl bed, 2 bth, mansion flat. Lge patio gdn. £335,000. 01225 318254

NW2 WEST HAMPSTEAD
Victorian semi-detached large family home 2 receptions, 4 bedrooms, 1 auxiliary room, (expansion poss to 5th bdrm) 1 bathroom, 2 WC, Kitchen/ dining room, Large attic (studio conv poss). Front and rear gardens. Good for schools, BR, LT, Jubilee line, West End and M1. All clear and near access.
£248,000 freehold.
No agents please
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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CAMPDEN HILL GDNS W8 Stunning 3 bed, 2 bath lat dec flat. £425,000. 0171 385 0632 T

CATHCART ROAD SW10 new refurb grnd floor flat, 3 bed, 2 bath in purpose built block £220,000. LH Barnard Marcus 0171 244 7337.

COLHERNE COURT Old Brompton Rd SW5. Grd flr 3 bed 2 rec flat req upgrading in block with communal garden access. 128 year lease. £259,500 Barnard Marcus 0171 244 7337

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

DRAYTON GARDENS SW10 Top floor flat (Lift) 3 beds, 1 recep, 2 baths, red brick period building £450,000 s/t. Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

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HURLINGHAM ROAD SW6 4 dble bed house, dble reception, kit/dining room, newly refurb. £495,000. Call 0171 610 6666

FIELD RD SW10 Large one bedroom flat with terrace, in need of modernisation, good value at £140000 STC 0171 581 1631 t

KENS SW5 1st floor 1 bed 2 recep flat with wooden floors. 18' recep & dbl glazing. L/H £229,000. Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

OLD BROMPTON RD, SW5. Newly mod spacious 3 bed maisonette, dbl rec, patio, 1 e/s bath, 1 e/s shwr, 1 shwr, 1 cloak. £465,000. Tel: 0171 3706580.

STAFFORD COURT (No. 16), Kensington High St. 4 bedrms, dble reception, p/b flat, porter, e/phone, near tube & amenities. Requires TLC! Long lease. Open house viewing on Sat 19th July 10.30 am - 4.30pm & Sun 20th July 11.00 am - 4.30 pm. £440,000. Call us at Century 21 Kensington or see you there! 0171 371 2100. 24 hrs

UNUSUAL Oversized Properties. Available Long Leases & F/H Atrium Estates 0171 589 9199

W.KEN Newly refurb 1 bed flat, contemporary interior £135000 STC 0171 581 1631 t

BRAMHAM GARDENS SW5
Spacious ground floor flat in prime location with access onto communal gardens. F&R, large reception room, kitchen. 2 bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, cloakroom. Gas CH. Carpets and curtains included.
Freehold £465,000
STRICTLY NO AGENCIES
Tel/Fax Mon onwards
0171 374 6130/ 0171 214 6457

KENSINGTON W8
Detached, romantic period hse with lge garage in quiet, exclusive backwater surrounded by trees. Stunning views. 30ft s/facing recep with 3 French windows to suntrap terrace(20x120). 2 lge bdr suites(19x20ft) with marble bathrms. Dining rm/bed 3. Paved garden. Immaculate. Freehold [illegible].
0171 6025941

KENSINGTON
Unique 1860's 4 storey detached house, nr Portobello close to (2 mins) Ladbroke Grove & Holland Park tubes, quiet tree lined street, residents parking. 4/5 beds, 2/3 receptions, family/ dining room, large kitchen, laundry, 2 baths, 1 en-suite, 3 separate WCs, 85 ft garden, recently renovated to high standard
OIRO £900,000
TEL 0181 9680086

SW10
Large Terraced House.
Open plan - 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double recep room, family room, kitchen, laundry room, study, storage room, cellar, garden. Freehold
Priv sale £875,000
Tel: 0171 3526428
or 0831 36 1467.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

BASIL ST, SW3. Newly refurb top floor 2 bed, 2 bath lift, porter. £485,000. 0171 630 0082

TREVOR PLACE
Freehold House very near Harrods for sale.
4/5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, etc. Inspection welcome.
£1,000,000
Private sale, no agents please.
0171 235 6300

NOTTING HILL

FREEHOLD Fully modernised house border Notting Hill, 500m Kensington Gardens, open plan reception, 2 beds, 1½ bath, integral garage, terrace. View by appointment Sunday. For quick sale only £335,000. 0171 792 1821.

HOLLAND PARK 3 bed, 1st fl flat, lge bright recp, sm balcony. £365,000. 0171 221 5455.

NOTTING HILL 5/6 bed house, gdn, osp, require int redec. FH. £675,000. 0171 221 5455.

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

DESIRABLE
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0181 977 8519.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

LITTLE CHALFONT 1930's det hse, 3 beds, lge workshop, dble gge, nr commuting/schools £215,000 01494 763943

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CAMBRIDGE RIVER SIDE
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Spooners 01626 69785

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BOURNEMOUTH
Eastcliff
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or 0956 442 559

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Private beach access.
£250,000.
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Tel:01322 864577

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Cosy residence set in 5 Acres o/look the Darenth Valley, superbly maintained. comprising of 3 recep, 3 bath, 5 dbl bed, a 22ft by 22ft kit & ut rm. Games room, dressing rm & 5th bed, every room with views. Burglar & Fire alm. landscaped grounds with S/Pool & Bowling Green. Private drive protected by elgates. Situated on the edge of the vge. Easy reach of M/ways & BR. 7 mls to 7oaks. 15 mls to London. offers ar £725,000
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0181 393 0077

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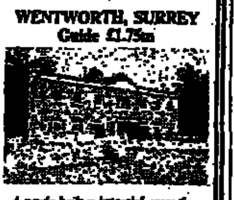

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ST KATHS DK 5 min lux lge 1 & 2 bd ff pkg nr tube £210-£400 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

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Troytan : Det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge/dnr, conser, kit, gdns, grge, £75000, Ref 12594
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St Davids/Pembroke : S/det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £48000, Ref 12584
Pen-Y-Groes : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, study, util, kit, gdns, grge, £43000, Ref 12588
Ammanford : EOT hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £28500, Ref 12596
Dinbych : Det 3 bed hse + 1 bed annexe set in apx 1 acre, £100000, Ref 12667
Llanelli : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, util, kit, gdns, grge, £55000, Ref 12618
Llangennech : Det 2 bed Stately Badminton Park House, £49950, Ref 12625
Tremain/Cardigan : Det hse, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £62950, Ref 12656
Broadhaven : Det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, shwr rm, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £69950, Ref 12687
EAST YORKSHIRE
Driffield : Det hse, 4 beds, e/s shwr, bath, 2 rec, util, wc, kit, gdns, grge, £75000, Ref 12634
Skipsea : S/det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, grge, £47000, Ref 12702
ESSEX
Wickham Bishops : Det hse, 5 beds, 3 rec, 3 bath; completed 1997, £260000, Ref 12629
Witham : Ter hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, P/Ex poss, £55000, Ref 12632
Great Clacton : Link det b/low, 2 beds, bath, e/s shwr, lnge, kit, gdns, grge, £55000, Ref 12635
Leigh on Sea : Det hse, 5 beds, bath, 2 rec, study, wc, kit, gdns, grge, £188500, Ref 12641
Waltham Abbey : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, comm gdns, pkng, £75995, Ref 12659
Rainham : S/det hse, 4 beds, bath, shwr rm, study, kit, gdns, grge, £95500, Ref 12666
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Lydney : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge/dnr, kit, gdns, pkng, £40995, Ref 12567
GWENT
Bulwark/Chepstow : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, comm gdns, £30950, Ref 12646
Chepstow : Det 4 bed hse c1830 set in apx 3 acres + grge, £240000, Ref 12691
HAMPSHIRE
Southsea : Grnd flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr + pkng, £38000, Ref 12583
St Leonards : Det mobile home, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, pkng, £21500, Ref 12585
Denmead : Det hse, 4 beds, bath, shwr rm, 2 rec, study, conser, util, kit + gdns, grge, £325000, Ref 12612
Hayling Island : Det b/low, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £95000, Ref 12647
Fareham : Corner Shop with 3 bed accommodation above + gdns, £95000, Ref 12677
Fordingbridge : S/det hse, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £115000, Ref 12679
Barton on Sea : Det 4 bed hse + gdns, grge, P/Ex poss, £162000, Ref 12701
Gosport : Det b/low, 3 beds, 2 bath, e/s shwr, lnge, kit, gdns, grge, £110000, Ref 12719
ISLE OF MAN
Douglas : Det b/low, 4 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £185000, Ref 12724
KENT
Birchington : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge/din, kit, gdns, grge, £65000, Ref 12585
Chatham : Det chalet b/low, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, studio, kit, gdns, grge, £90000, Ref 12601
Langley/Maidstone : S/det b/low, 3 beds, bath, shwr rm, 2 rec, kit + gdns, grge, £93995, Ref 12654
Birchington : S/det cott c14th, 2 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £80000, Ref 12657
Chatham : Det b/low, 3 bed, 3 rec, set in apx 1/3 acre, £145000, Ref 12673
LANCASHIRE
Thornton Cleveleys/Blackpool : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge/din, conser, kit, gdns, grge, £49850, Ref 12500
Salford : S/det hse, 5 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, cellar & gdns, £40000, Ref 12501
Heath Charnock/Chorley : Det b/low, 4 beds, bath, lnge, conser, kit + gdns, grge, £96000, Ref 12600
Salford : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, comm gdns, pkng, £37950, Ref 12624
Todmorden : Quasi s/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £47500, Ref 12638
Swinton : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £59850, Ref 12651
Great Harwood : Ter hse, 2 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit + gdns, £28000, Ref 12655
Prestwich : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £39950, Ref 12688
Fleetwood : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £52000, Ref 12690
Chorley : S/det 9 bed hse currently a B&B + gdns, grge, £195000, Ref 12727
LINCOLNSHIRE
Grimsby : Det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, grge, £50500, Ref 12592
Barton Upon Stather : Det 3 bed hse set in apx. 1/3 of an acre + stables/o'bldgs, grge, £78950, Ref 12642
Grantham : Vict ter hse, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit + gdns, £35000, Ref 12665
Branston/Lincoln : Det 3 bed hse c1933 + gdns, grge, w/shop, £78000, Ref 12704
LONDON
W2 : 1st flr flat, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit, comm gdns, £95000, Ref 12509
SW15/Putney : 3rd flr flat, 1 bed, bath, lnge, kit, balcony, P/Ex poss, £78000, Ref 12619
SW18 : S/det hse, 5 beds, 3 baths, lnge, util, wc, kit, gdns, grge, £400000, Ref 12636
N9/10/Wembley : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, util, kit, gdns, pkng, £79950, Ref 12670
N17/Tottenham : Ter hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, util, kit/dnr + gdns, £70995, Ref 12705
N17/Tottenham : Grnd flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit + pkng, £54995, Ref 12711
E18 : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit + grge, £74000, Ref 12714
W9 : 2nd flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, £249950, Ref 12717
MERSEYSIDE
Blundellsands : Det hse, 4 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, study, util, kit, gdns, grge, P/Ex poss, £159950, Ref 12593
Litherland : Ter hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, yard, pkng, £25500, Ref 12603
St Helens : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £78000, Ref 12614
Wavertree/Liverpool : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 3 rec, wc, kit, gdns, grge, £102000, Ref 12643
Halewood : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, e/s shwr, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, pkng, £49950, Ref 12694
MID GLAMORGAN
Porthcawl : Det hse, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, study, shwr rm, kit + gdns, grge, £225000, Ref 12575
Gross Faen : Det hse, 4 beds, 3 rec, 2 bath set in apx 1/4 acre + grge, £159500, Ref 12685
Millbrook : Split level det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge/dnr, kit, gdns, pkng, £54000, Ref 12719
MIDDLESEX
Cowley : Grnd flr flat, 1 bed, bath, lnge/kit + pkng, P/Ex poss, £39000, Ref 12613
Enfield : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £115000, Ref 12700
MIDLANDS (WEST)
Coventry : Det b/low, 4 bed, 3 rec + swim pool & sauna, £265000, Ref 12578
Shelton/Birmingham : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, util, wc, kit, gdns, pkng, £37500, Ref 12553
Handsworth/Birmingham : 3 storey ter hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, £38500, Ref 12660
Smethwick : Ter hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit + gdns, £41000, Ref 12676
Wolverhampton : Det b/low, 3 beds, 2 bath, 3 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £185000, Ref 12682
Sutton Coldfield : Spanish style 4 bed det b/low + gdns, grge, £169950, Ref 12683
Willenhall : Ter hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £34900, Ref 12689
NORFOLK
Great Ellingham : Det b/low, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £50995, Ref 12606
Taverham : Det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £69500, Ref 12608
Hemsby : Det b/low, 3 beds, bath, 3 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £58000, Ref 12630
Lessingham : Det hse, 4 beds, e/s shwr, bath, 2 rec, util wc, kit, apx. 1/4 acre, grge, £119850, Ref 12633
Hemsby/Gt Yarmouth : S/det b/low, 3 beds, e/s shwr, 2 rec, 2 kit, yard, grge, £58500, Ref 12637
Cromer : Vict 8 bed ter hse + gdns, pkng, £90000, Ref 12667
Great Yarmouth : Ter hse/Hotel, 18 beds all e/s + 2 bed owners annexe, £297500, Ref 12668
NORTH YORKSHIRE
Harrogate : Det Vict hse, 6 beds, 2 bath, 3 rec + gdns, pkng, £114000, Ref 12623
Ampleforth/Malton : Det 6 bed 18th century hse set in apx 0.8 acres + o'bldgs, £249500, Ref 12664
Hunmanby : Split level 3 bed det b/low + grge, gdns & stream, £114000, Ref 12686
Sherburn in Elmet : Det hse, 3 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, study, kit, gdns, grge, £84950, Ref 12709
Cawood : Det hse, 4 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, util, kit, gdns, grge, £128500, Ref 12721
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Earls Barton : Det hse, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, study, kit, gdns, grge, £120000, Ref 12650
NORTHUMBERLAND
Amble : Det hse c1900, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, conser, kit, gdns, grge, £80000, Ref 12705
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Clipstone : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £36500, Ref 12595
Nottingham : Det 4 bed hse + s/c annexe, gdns, grge, £99950, Ref 12681
OVERSEAS - SPAIN
Lloret De Mar : Det villa split into 2 * 2 bed aparts, £99975, Ref 12569
POWYS
Ystradgynlais : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, wc, kit/dnr, gdns, pkng, £52750, Ref 12645
POWYS
Llanidloes : S/det 3 storey 3 bed Vict hse + gdns, grge, £65000, Ref 12651
SOMERSET
Milverton : Det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge, sun lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £62500, Ref 12662
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
Doncaster : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £29500, Ref 12602
Barnsley : Ter hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit/dnr, gdns, £32500, Ref 12644
Ravenfield/Rotherham : Det hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, study, conser, kit/dnr, gdns, grge, £94495, Ref 12650
Thorpe/Sheffield : Det b/low, 3 beds, 2 bath, util, 3 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £155000, Ref 12697
SPAIN
Bonil/Castellon : Det 4 bed hse + gdns, swim pool, £180000, Ref 12576
Bonil/Castellon : Det 4 bed hse + gdns, swim pool, P/Ex poss, £180000, Ref 12577
STAFFORDSHIRE
Birchmoor : EOT hse, 1 bed, bath, lnge/dnr, kit, gdns, pkng, £39950, Ref 12565
Armitage : Link det hse, 3 beds, bath, 3 rec, util kit, gdns, grge, P/Ex poss, £72000, Ref 12622
Hednesford/Cannock : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, grge, £61000, Ref 12708
STRATHCLYDE
Crookston : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, patio, pkng, £44000, Ref 12608
Glasgow : S/det hse, 9 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £99950, Ref 12611
Lanark : Det hse, 4 beds, 2 bath, sauna, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge (Offers Over), £125000, Ref 12648
Paisley : EOT hse, 3 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £57500, Ref 12671
SUFFOLK
Stowmarket : S/det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, carport, £45500, Ref 12617
Ditchingham : S/det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge/dnr, kit, gdns, grge, P/Ex poss, £52250, Ref 12680
Ipswich : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £50000, Ref 12718
SURREY
Smallfield : S/det b/low, 2 beds, bath, lnge/dnr, conser, kit, gdns, grge, £89950, Ref 12621
Kew : Det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £375000, Ref 12716
Hampton Wick : Grnd flr flat, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £130000, Ref 12726
SUSSEX (EAST)
Brighton : 1st flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit + balcony, £53850, Ref 12663
SUSSEX (WEST)
Selsey : S/det hse, 2 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £72500, Ref 12684
SUSSEX (EAST)
St Leonards on Sea : 7th flr 2 bed Seafront flat with balcony, £30000, Ref 12580
St Leonards on Sea : 2nd flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £38000, Ref 12722
TYNE & WEAR
Wallsend : Grnd flr flat, 2 beds, bath, lnge, kit, gdns, pkng, £30000, Ref 12720
WARWICKSHIRE
Ettington : Det hse, 4 beds, bath, e/s shwr, lnge/dnr, util, kit, gdns, grge, £143950, Ref 12587
Leamington Spa : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, grge, £74950, Ref 12603
WEST YORKSHIRE
Huddersfield : Det b/low 4 beds, 2 bath, 2 rec, util, kit, gdns, grge, £145000, Ref 12635
WEST SUSSEX
Pagham : 1st flr flat, 1 bed, e/s bath, lnge, kit, £32950, Ref 12649
WEST YORKSHIRE
South Kirkby : Det hse, 5 bed, 2 bath, 2 rec, built 1990 + gdns, grge, £140000, Ref 12686
Baildon : Det 6 bed hse set in apx 1/2 acre + o'bldgs, grge, £145000, Ref 12739
WORCESTERSHIRE
Acton/Stourport on Severn : S/det hse, 3 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit, gdns, pkng, £97000, Ref 12604
Kidderminster : S/det hse c1910, 4 beds, bath, 2 rec, kit/dnr + gdns, £80000, Ref 12712
Wythall East : 1st flr flat, 3 beds, bath, balcony, lnge, kit + pkng, £36000, Ref 12725

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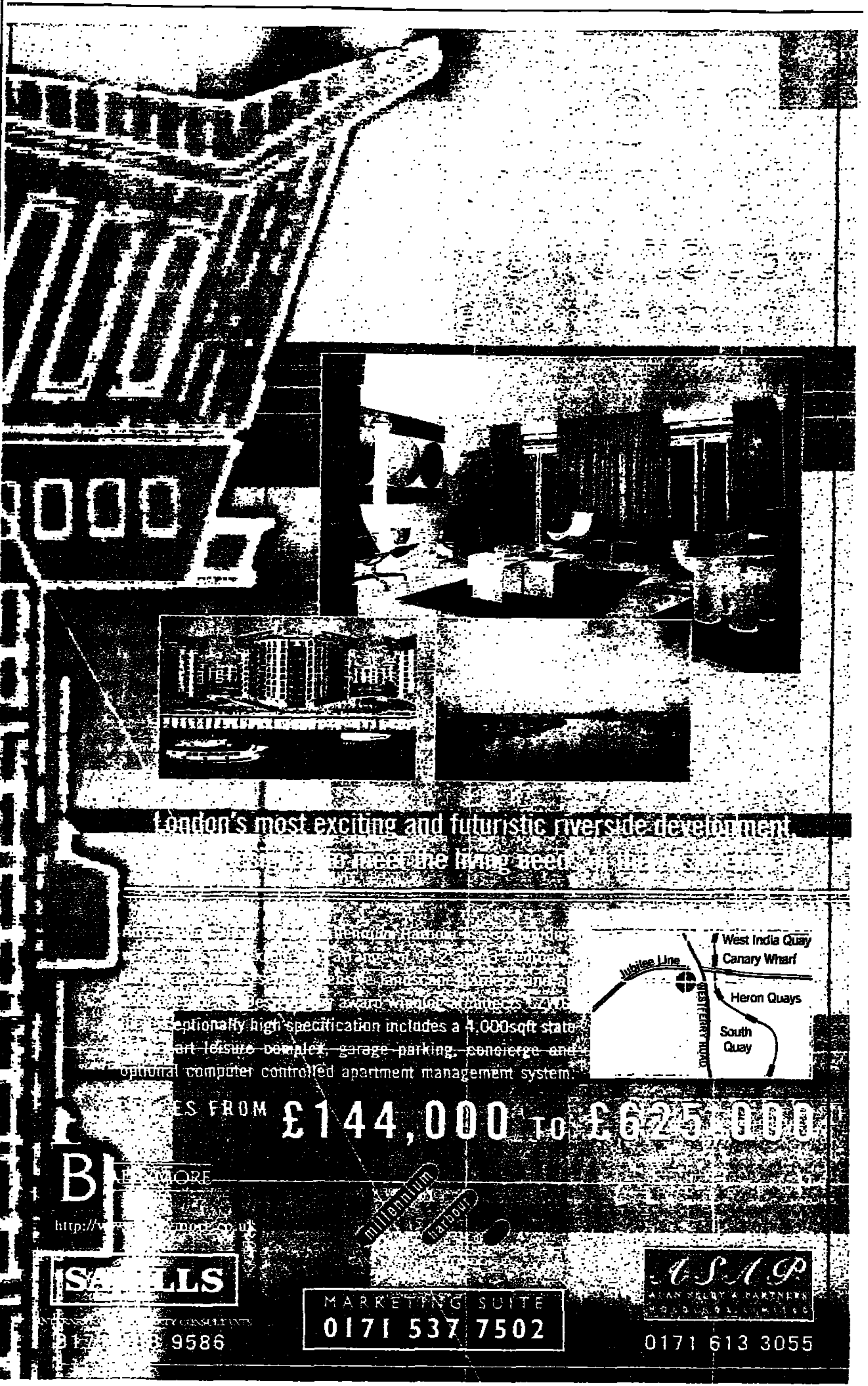

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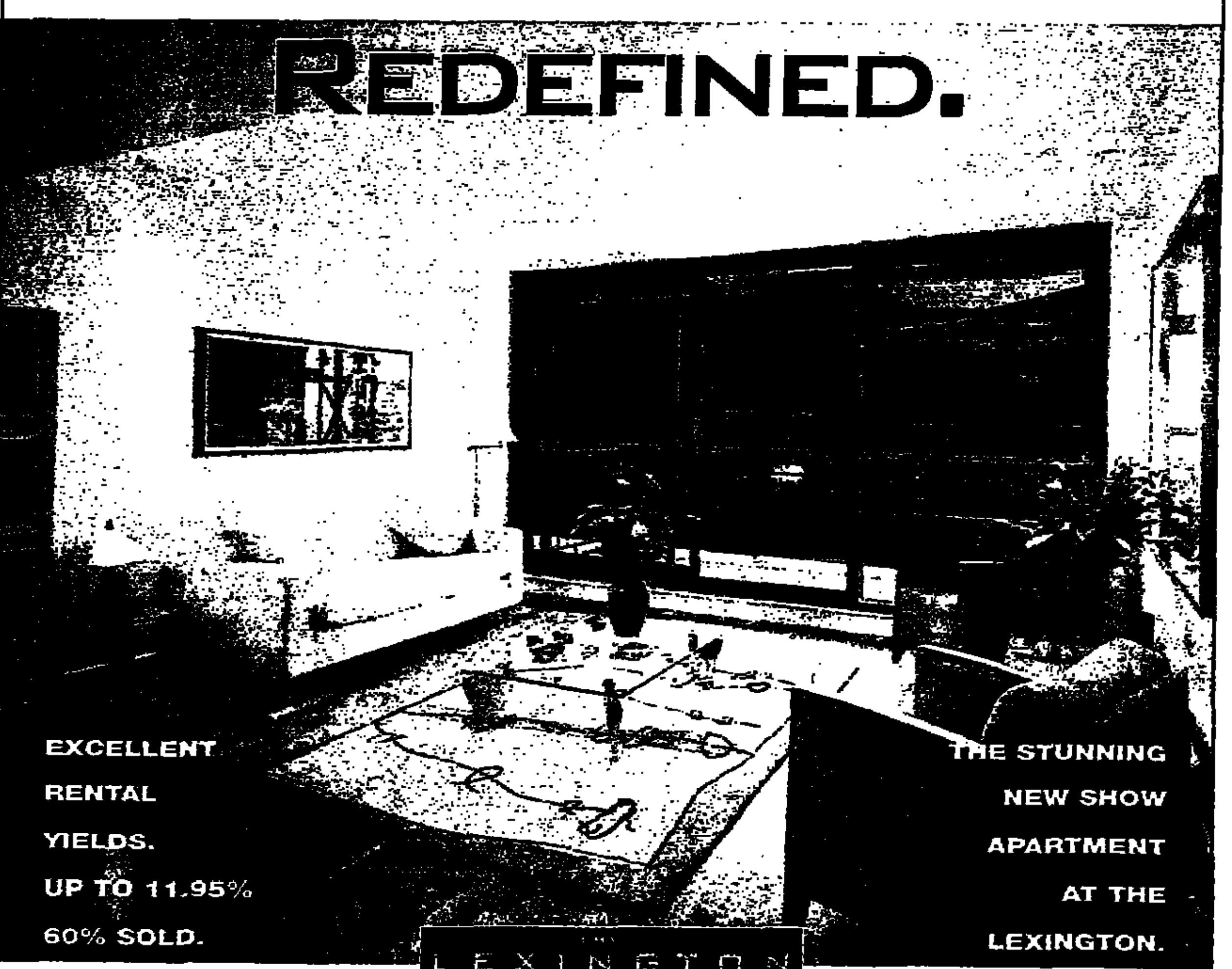

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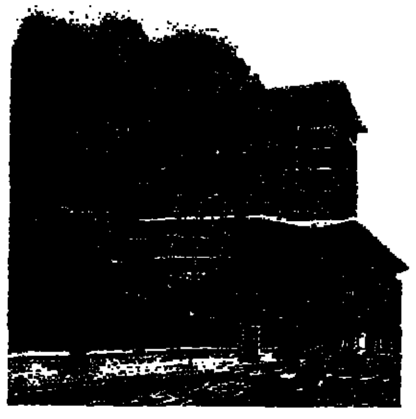

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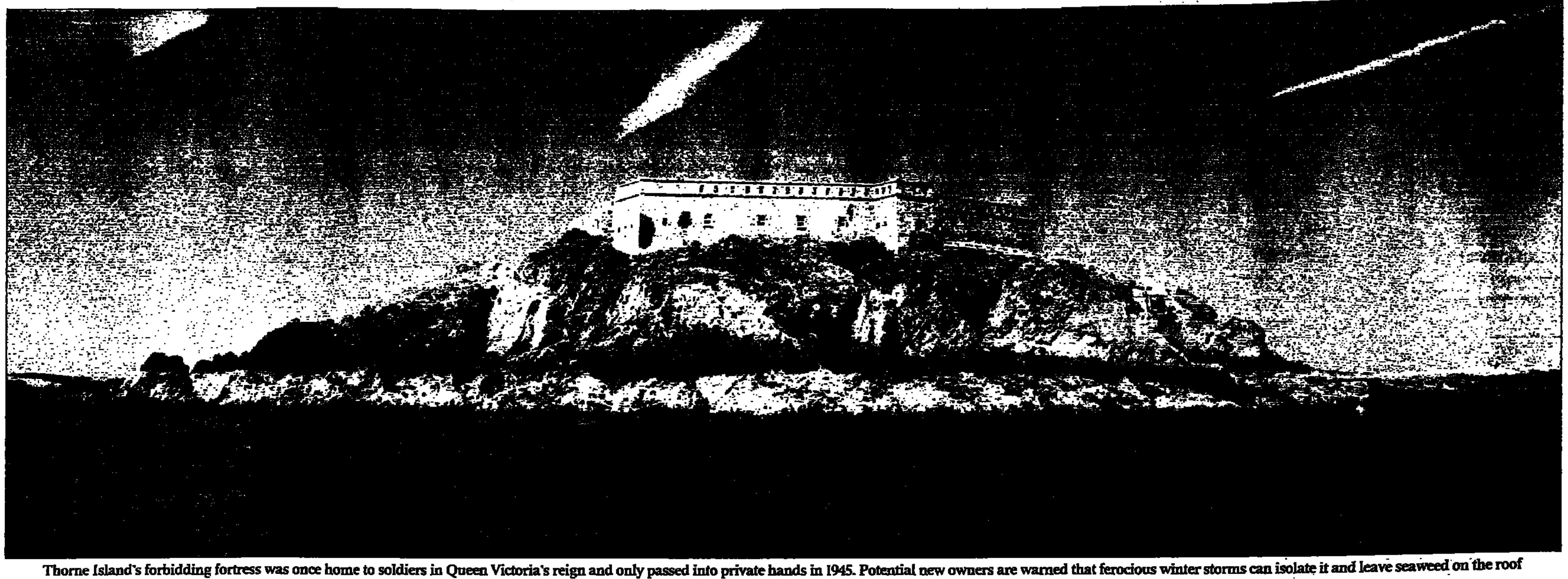
Erica Wagner visits an island fortress that would provide a serious adventure for a new buyer

DES JENSON



Thorne Island's forbidding fortress was once home to soldiers in Queen Victoria's reign and only passed into private hands in 1945. Potential new owners are warned that ferocious winter storms can isolate it and leave seaweed on the roof

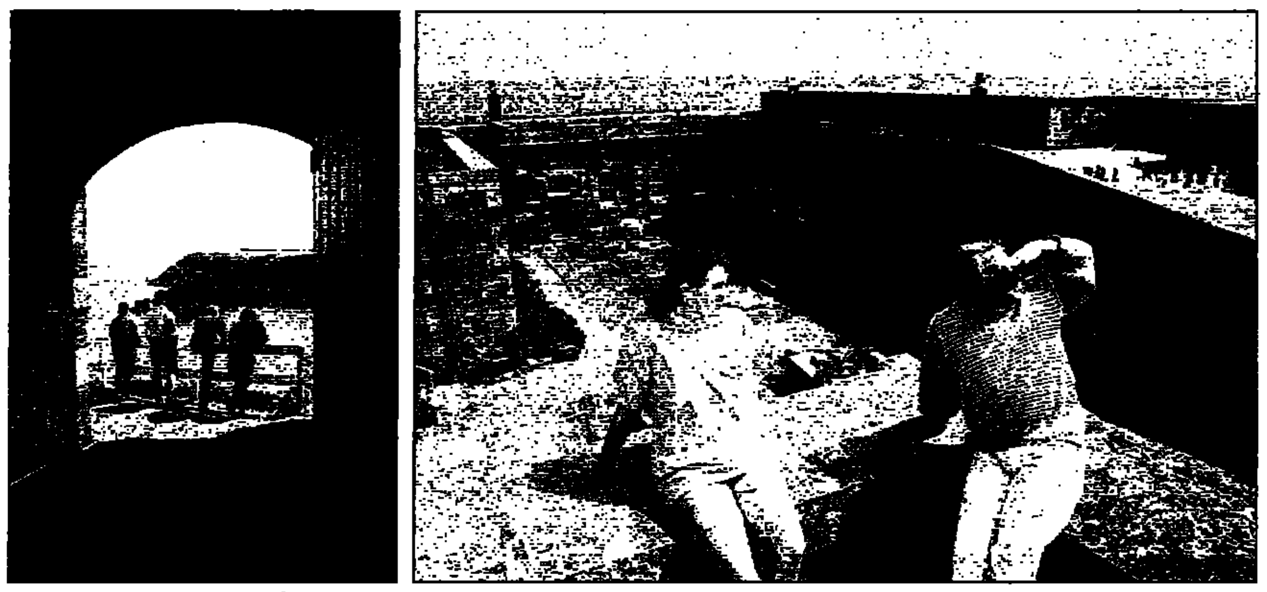
The ultimate hideaway

Midnight. The sky is black and riveted with stars, the Milky Way looping silver from horizon to horizon. There is no moon. Driving down the narrow, sinuous lane that leads down to West Angle Bay, we pass the Texaco oil refinery, glittering like Oz against the obsidian night, throwing gouts of flame and smoke into the darkness. Then it is hidden behind a hill and there is nothing to guide us as we head down the beach and towards an invisible sea. Everything is very quiet.

"Are you sure this is the right beach?" I ask my companion. "It has to be," he says. He's been here before, knows his way around the place, but all the same he doesn't sound too sure.

And then we hear the thin whine of a motor as Thorne Island's launch approaches to collect us. This is the only way to get to the island, whose two acres are a quarter of a mile out in the bay. At high tide there is a landing stage, but at low tide you do what we did: take off your shoes and socks, wade out into the freezing sea and clamber into an inflatable boat. Thorne Island is not a purchase for the faint of heart.

It doesn't take long to get there, ten minutes over a calm sea, just us, our pilot and a couple who are booked in for a weekend — the island is now run by owner Peter Williamson as a hotel in the summer. We round a spit of land and the island looms over us, its outline picked out by yellow light that spills out of slit-like windows. It looks formidable, secure as Alcatraz; welcoming, one must admit, is not the word that springs to mind.



Guests at the entrance (left) looking towards the coast; and Peter Williamson the owner, on the ramparts with Anita Lunn

But once you have climbed the 50 or so steep, slippery stone steps that lead up from the dock (*nul points* from the *Does He Take Sugar?* team), the welcome is warm.

Ushered into an enormous, vaulted sitting room that once housed soldiers, we were revived with food and drink. Nearly 40ft long and washed with pink and white paint, the room was enlivened by a fine fire in the grate.

Although this was July, the fire was very welcome. Winter brings waves that crash over the island, depositing seaweed on the fort's roof. Winter habitation would mean installing central heating, an amenity the fort does not currently provide. Central cooling is more like it.

Thorne Island, though described as a Napoleonic fort, was in fact built in 1854, a good 33 years after Boney perished on his own island prison. It was owned by the Ministry of Defence until 1945, when it was sold to its first private owner for £50; now the asking price is £275,000. Mr Williamson has owned it for six years, and besides replumbing and rewiring the place, has installed a whirlpool bath, a sauna and, in the courtyard where soldiers once drilled, a volleyball court. A giant chessboard painted on the ramparts reminded me just how dreadful I am at the game.

Off the comfortable sitting room, there is a little bar, a games room and a dining room, both large and serviceable; and the room that served as a cookhouse when the place was built is still in use as the kitchen.

The only trouble with its size, said Anita Lunn, who was serving the guests that weekend, is that you cover a lot of ground in a day's work… Turn left as you come through the fort's great wood and iron doors and you find the guest accommodation. A room the size of the lounge has been split into eight bedrooms (there is another, larger one, where the guard house once was), each named after one of the seabirds whose morning arguments ensured we rose with the sun. They are spartan, as is the shower and toilet room at the end of the long corridor, and far away from the sitting room's roaring fire a pervasive damp becomes more evident.

A prospective owner should be warned that repainting the entire interior of the fort is an annual task, such havoc does the winter weather wreak. Old artillery stores now provide some staff and self-catering accommodation.

Rainwater tanks shown on the original plans are still the island's water supply — fine for washing but not for drinking. Two diesel generators supply electricity — and seem to work *most* of the time.

But why would you buy a place like this? Well, climb the steps to the high, wide ramparts, stride above the nesting gulls and you may become attached to being master of your domain. Want to get away from it all? Pull up your metaphorical drawbridge — just don't send out the boat — and sit tight. Look out over Milford Haven bay, blue and tranquil out to the west. It is less peaceful to the east, where the oil refinery seems far less magical in daylight.

The refinery also ensures that the island is a paradise for tanker spotters; Mr Williamson probably got a better look than he would have liked at the *Sea Empress* when she ran aground here last year.

Guests come to sail, dive and windsurf. There are dolphins and whales in these waters. The nearby islands of Skomer and Skokholm are bird sanctuaries.

Without doubt this is a beautiful location despite the refinery, but there is no getting away from the fact that Her Majesty's Government did not build Thorne Island as a resort, and its forbidding solidity could never really be overcome. Knock it down and start again? Not a possibility, for it is Grade II listed — and even if you were able, I imagine that aerial bombing would do only minor damage. If you buy Thorne Island you are stuck with what is described in the literature as a "romantic Napoleonic fort" — work that one out, if you can.

The sun was blazing on the sea when we left. Trousers rolled, shoes in hand, we leapt from the boat into the shallows and made our way up West Angle beach, feeling as if we had had a great adventure.

But nothing compared to the adventure that would follow the purchase of Thorne Island.

● *Agent: Knight Frank (01432 273087)*

FORTRESS OF THE WEEK

The fort's Jolly Roger

Thorne Island, Angle, Pembroke, Dyfed

● **Price:** about £275,000

● **Setting:** ¼ mile out into Milford Haven bay. Pembroke nine miles; M4 motorway 50 miles. There is a slow, daily service from Paddington Station.

● **Shopping:** don't forget to make a list when you venture to Pembroke's shops: think how annoyed you'll be when you realise you forgot the milk and have to wade up the beach again. Gulls eggs, in season, can be found on the ramparts.

● **Entertainment:** make your own, the old-fashioned way. Long storm-bound evenings could doubtless be whiled away with games of charades and Truth or Dare. But don't even think about running or jumping on the ramparts — it is a long way down to the rocks below.

PROPERTY PROFILE: LINCOLNSHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Commuters now flocking to villages around Grantham and Stamford would disagree with Henry VIII. He described the county as "one of the most brutal and beestlie of the whole realm", although his view was coloured by the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536, when local peasants rebelled against his religious reforms. The Wolds to the north are raved about by those in the know, while the Georgian town of Stamford, the setting for the BBC's adaptation of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, pulls the crowds. Grantham to King's Cross in under an hour is a big lure, while the A1 provides links to major routes.

The market: rising slowly, according to Strutt & Parker, with nothing like the dramatic price increases of the South East, and neighbouring Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Savills in Lincoln quotes rises of 5 per cent over the last year for prime properties. The market fell by between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in the recession, according to Longstaff in Spalding.

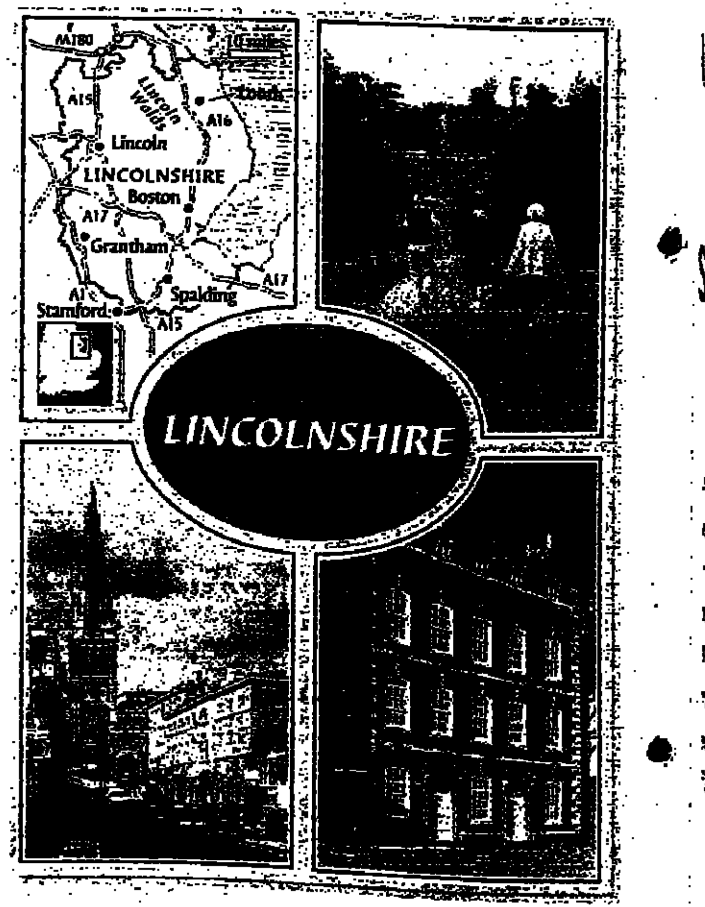
Expect to pay: prices are 15-20 per cent higher in the south of the county than in the agricultural north, according to Savills. Humberts reckons a three-bedroom cottage would go for £90,000 to £130,000; a five-bedroom farmhouse without land for £175,000 to £225,000, while a small manor house would cost from £250,000. Clegg Kennedy Drew in Stamford says it could sell any number of Georgian family houses within 15 miles of Stamford, while Stacks Relocation is house-hunting for second home buyers, or commuters, who can find nothing in the Home Counties or nearby Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Significant sales: the sale of Fulbeck Hall, in Fulbeck, near Grantham, was something of an occasion this spring. Savills sold the William and Mary house for close to the £450,000 guide price, a successful attempt to tap into the boom in the South East.

Outlook: generally good. Clegg Kennedy Drew reckons it is a county no longer beyond the commuting frontier.

AMANDA LOOSE

● *Next Saturday's property profile: Worcestershire*



Taking steps to restore a front path

Joyce Blake explains how to recreate traditional tile patterns

Take a walk along any street of Victorian terraced houses and you are likely to see some front steps and paths that still have the original geometric tiles. These small tiles were laid in contrasting colours to create a simple, effective pattern.

Victorian developers were keenly aware that the first impression of a property was important and that a decoratively tiled path and steps added a feeling of grandeur. They also knew the steps rising to the front door were an important social tool, because they ensured the housewife would always be standing above the milkman or tradesmen when she opened her front door.

Geometric patterned tiles were originally used to decorate churches, monasteries and the homes of the aristocracy. In the 1860s, with the advent of new technology, they became cheaper to produce and more widely available. During the Victorian period they became increasingly popular for indoor and outdoor use, because they were practical, decorative and relatively inexpensive.

Sadly, many Victorian paths have deteriorated and been replaced with concrete or covered with asphalt. To restore the traditional tiling can be expensive but it is possible to achieve a good finish without spending a fortune.

When calculating the cost it is worth remembering that well-laid tiling lasts for 100 years or more.

Jane Green has recently finished renovating the front of her house in Belsize Park, north London. She says: "My steps still had the original black and white tiles, which were in good condition, but the front path had to be renewed. I wanted the new path to be in keeping with the house and to blend in with the old steps. I did a lot of research and took pictures of similar houses in the area that still had the original paths.

"Armed with my photos and one of the old tiles, I went to several salvage yards and reproduction tile shops, but still couldn't find any tiles with the right shade and texture.

"Eventually, I went to a local tile shop and found some large modern tiles that were a perfect colour match with the originals. My tiler cut them into smaller squares and, when laid, they looked great."

Before tiling it is important to check the condition of the path and steps. If the path is in good repair, with just a few tiles missing or cracked, it is possible to have suitable replacements made.

The Encaustic Tile Company can produce traditional tiles, using a photograph, that will blend with the existing path. You can order a single tile, but expect to pay considerably more for these than for tiles bought in a shop.

If the path is damaged it is best to have a new concrete base laid, because this will make a durable foundation. The next decision is whether to use reproduction salvaged or modern tiles.

There are tiling companies that reproduce Victorian tiles using traditional clay and colour stains. Original Style produces a wide range of Victorian designs, with a variety of borders. Prices range from £35 a square metre for a simple chequerboard pattern, to £60-£70 a square metre for more decorative patterns.

Another option is to use salvaged original Victorian tiles. These are likely to cost about the same as the modern reproduction ones. While they will look more authentic and have more charm, they are becoming increasingly hard to find, and may need cleaning before they can be relaid.

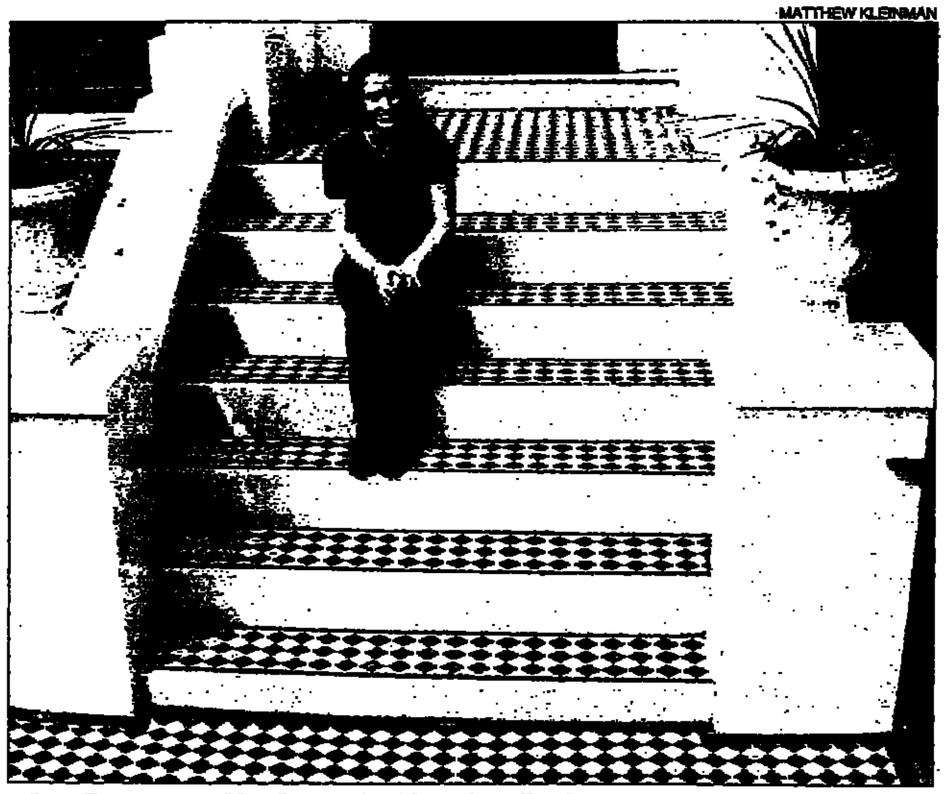
For information on salvage yards in your area, which often stock reclaimed tiles, contact Salvo, which compiles regional guides to salvage yards (see box).

Modern tiles are a cheaper option and can be used to good effect. As Ms Green discovered, it is possible to buy new ceramic tiles and have them cut into small shapes. Most tile shops stock a range of tiles that have been made from traditional materials that would look authentic outside a Victorian house.

There is no doubt that a well-tiled front path and steps can give a house a real facelift. Ms Green says: "I am extremely happy with my finished project. The newly tiled steps and path are in keeping with the style of our property and please me each time I walk in and out of the house.

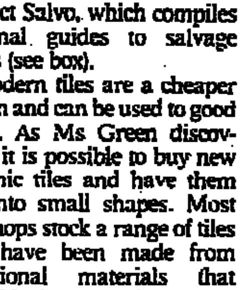
"I hope the tiles remain there for another hundred years and that future owners of the house will appreciate the effect as much as I have."

MATTHEW KLEINMAN



Jane Green renewed her front path with modern tiles that matched the original tiled steps

FACT FILE



- **The Encaustic Tile Company, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire TF8 7AW (01952 884747): traditional tiles to match an existing path.**
- **Salvo, Ford Woodhouse, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2QF (01668 216494): lists salvage yards (information pack £5.75).**
- **Original Style (01392 474058): catalogue and nearest stockists of reproduction Victorian tiles (pictured above).**
- **Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society (01743 236127): information on restoring your tiling in period style.**

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MARTIN BEDDALL

The Cuckmere Valley Petanque Club has been playing La Boule Dieppoise home and away since 1993, but without a victory in sight

The Norman conquests

Petanque may have caught on in Britain, but **Jill Parkin** sees the French hand out an annual thrashing

It was the biggest glass of Pernod I had ever been given. But Christian Henry would not take "non" for an answer. It could have been worse that grey Saturday morning. It could have been a Scotch egg.

La Boule Dieppoise, a team of 20 stout Normans, had crossed the Channel to Newhaven for another conquest, intent on thrashing the English at the French national game of boules, or petanque.

After the duty-free shop on the ferry, M Henry and his merry men had visited the local Sainsbury's to stock up on tea, bacon and Scotch eggs. Rather surprising, but perhaps they thought the Scotch bit was something else. "We always get thrashed," said Jeffrey Hernu, leader of the Cuckmere Valley Petanque Club, fluent French speaker and sometime postwar *aide de camp* to Montgomery. "Perhaps, you should have a little water with that?"

A cry went up from the club pavilion. "Here's Topper." In came Christopher Ann, owner of the English Wine Centre, near Alfriston in East Sussex, with several carafes of punch. M Henry pursued me with a little water for the Pernod. Mr Hernu gave me a glass of punch and the sun came out. Or it seemed to, anyhow.

The Cuckmere club has a permanent pitch, or piste as petanque players call it, at the wine centre. With its pavilion and well-gravelled courts, this is the Wimbledon of the game. In France, boules is played on any patch of sandy ground, often under the plane trees in the village square.

It's catching on in Britain, especially in Kent and Sussex, where a few pubs advertise it along with their beer gardens on the signs outside. There is even a British Petanque Association.

"Come and have a go," said Jean Foster, a Cuckmere member. A few Anglo-French friendlies were being played before lunch. The idea is to get your boule as near as possible to the jack, and bomb the opposition boules out of the way without hitting your own.

The French, the acknowledged masters, looked relaxed in style and girth. There couldn't be much to it. But petanque is harder than it looks. The boules are held with the palm downwards and then tossed. They weigh more than 700g each — I would have done considerably better with a Scotch egg.

"Good line," Mrs Foster said. It was tactful of her not to mention the length. The English side were the cream of South Coast retired folk — well-heeled and slightly batty but very good losers. "It was 10-18 last year," Mr Hernu said. "I'd like to narrow the gap this year."

Over lunch in Topper's barn, I tried to find out why the English side played, but I could only diagnose eccentricity. "We're one of the largest clubs," Mrs Foster said. "But we're the least serious." A good thing too. No club with a care for its reputation would expose itself to this every year. Cuckmere has been doing it since 1993 — at home and away — with not a victory in sight.

Over an English wine called Red Rabbit, M Henry and his second in command, Pierre Landais, kept an eye on one of their younger members. Was he diluting his Pernod with Red Rabbit, I wondered?

"In France it's bad luck to break a glass," M Landais said. "He has broken three. Perhaps he thinks he is in Russia." Good grief. Vodka? The cups stood ready outside the club pavilion — one at least twice the size of the other. "That's the losers' cup," Mr Hernu explained. "I thought we should have it — for effort."

"Pour l'effort!" Jean-Louis Serra, the tallest member of the French team, translated for the benefit of a team-mate. He laughed the sort of French laugh Harold probably heard just before the arrow.

Then the challenge match between the teams began. "Now," said player Tom Woods, "c'est serieux. No holds barred."

Serieux indeed. Gauloise on lip, a Frenchman — and they're nearly all men — plays petanque in earnest. Two boules close to the jack? Perhaps you and I would take a squint at it and agree one way or the other. Not the French. They whip out a tape measure.

"Centimetres or inches?" I asked Mr Hernu. "Millimetres," he replied. The English team looked cool and smiled a lot. They kept wandering off-piste and asking what the latest score was in the Test match. The French didn't smile until they were well ahead.

"It's a social occasion. Just friendly competition," M Serra said, wiping his boules with a bar towel. Is that boule tampering?

"Hardly. It's a whitewash," said a Cuckmere member, adding hopefully to a Frenchman: "Un blanc lavage, n'est-ce pas?" The Frenchman smiled. "They're being very polite about it," said Bruce Allen, a retired engineer, "but basically they think we're rubbish."

It was all over. The Normans had conquered by 22 games to six. And that was with three broken glasses against them. They received the smaller winners' cup, and a philosophical Mr Hernu accepted the huge losers' trophy "pour l'effort".

"Will you ever be beaten?" I asked M Serra. "Next year," interrupted a Cuckmere member, exhibiting the sort of masochism known only to English sportsmen. M Serra smiled graciously. "We will play with an 'andicap," he said.

Christian Dymond on the drug-free ancient Chinese alternative way to treat ailments in animals

Pet ills get the needle

Tom, a ten-and-a-half year old cocker spaniel, was a most accommodating patient. He placed his hind legs on the table, his front legs on his owner's shoulder and thus standing, gazing quietly around the room, waited for acupuncture to begin.

Vet Eric Nelson unwrapped a sterilised stainless steel needle, located a point on the dog's shoulder, placed the needle inside a narrow plastic tube and, holding one end against the spaniel's shoulder, tapped the needle into the dog's skin with his finger.

There was not a flinch on Tom's face, so Mr Nelson found another point on the shoulder and tapped the next needle in. Another two needles were placed at the base of Tom's spine, one went in close by and two more were put into the back of his legs.

"This is really no different from treating a human being," Mr Nelson says. "Basically, I am stimulating the nerves by putting needles into areas which control the energy passing through the underlying body organs."

Traditional Chinese medicine holds that life force energies or "chi" flows through the body — human or animal — along well-defined meridians or channels. It says that where energy does not flow normally, ill health can occur.

Acupuncturists aim to restore health by inserting needles at appropriate sites, known as acupuncture points, on the affected meridians and so release the energy. The points are those places in the skin where it is easiest to access a nerve and muscle junction. What is known as the animal's bladder channel, for instance, (which starts at the inner corner of the eye and goes to the little toe of the hind foot) has 67 points.

"What we are trying to say is that modern scientific discovery has demonstrated that acupuncture works in various ways, including the production by the body of chemicals which deaden pain," says John Nicol, president of the Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists (ABVA).

The two needles placed at the base of Tom's spine, to the left and right of the lumbar vertebrae, were on a point called "bladder 23". This was to stimulate the adrenal cortex which produces natural cortisone. The two on the dog's shoulder at acupuncture point "large intestine 16" were to help relieve pain.

This was Tom's fourth visit to Mr Nelson over the past 12 or so weeks. A few months ago his owner, Pat Hyde, had noticed the dog pulling up his right front leg whenever he walked over stony ground. Sometimes he would lick his paw as if it might help ease the pain. Arthritis was eventually diagnosed and cortisone tablets were prescribed by a vet.

Mrs Hyde says: "I wasn't very happy about Tom taking the tablets in case of any long-term side-effects so I started making inquiries about alternative medicine. The vet then got in touch with Mr Nelson.

"The treatment is helping Tom a lot. He no longer pulls up his foot on hard ground, he walks quicker and more comfortably and he gets downstairs easier as well," she says.

Mr Nelson is one of 100 veterinary acupuncturists in the country. Every Tuesday and Thursday at the Hadrian Veterinary Group in Hexham, Northumberland, Mr Nelson treats a variety of ailments including arthritis, allergies, heart conditions, bruises, constipation and pain. Treatment costs £10 for about 20 minutes. Dogs are his main patients but he has seen cats and rabbits as well and treated cows, horses, sheep and pigs on farms.

He generally gives three or four treatments over a period of weeks to "stabilise" the animal's problem and then might see them every three or four months after that.

Another of his patients is a nine-year-old alsatian called Rona. The dog's spinal cord has narrowed because of increased calcification and a number of the nerves supplying her hind legs have been trapped. Mr Nelson hopes to stabilise her condition with electro-acupuncture, where a small electric pulse is sent through the needles and down the spine, stimulating the pinched nerves.

"I favour acupuncture for some ailments because there are no dangerous side-effects," Mr Nelson says.

NORTH NEWS

Vet Eric Nelson treats one of his canine charges, Vandal, with acupuncture needles

FACT FILE

- **Hadrian Veterinary Group: 01434 602703.**
- **Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists: 01483 573199.**
- **British Acupuncture Council: 0181-964 0222.**
- ***Veterinary Acupuncture. Ancient Art to Modern Medicine*, edited by Alan Schoen, £69, published by Times Mirror International Publishers.**

A VET WRITES

Q My rabbit has a discharge from his eyes. I've heard this happens because a rabbit's tear duct is U-shaped so tends to overflow. Should I stop worrying or take him to the vet?

A Rabbits' tear ducts are not highly efficient and a slight increase in tear production leads to an overflow. But there is no discharge from healthy eyes, so see your vet. It is possible there is some infection. "Snuffles", caused by a bacterium called *Pasteurella*, affects rabbits and early treatment can prevent serious trouble.

Q In January, I got a four-year-old cross bred bitch from Battersea Dogs' Home. She's been well trained and is very easy going, but has a strange habit. She drinks only from her waterbowl in the garden, although she eats in the kitchen. It doesn't matter whether it's tap or rain water. It's OK in summer, but I can see a problem in winter.

A You should do your best for your dog, but that doesn't mean pandering to her every whim. When winter arrives, keep a waterbowl indoors and leave it to her. No dog is stupid enough to go thirsty if a drink is available.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

ADOPT ME

Ellie needs a lot of care

ELLIE is an eight-year-old tan greyhound who lost one of her front legs in a road accident. She is coping well on three legs and is ready to go to a new home. She is a quiet, affectionate dog and would suit a family with children over 12 who can give her the care she needs. Contact Wood Green Animal Shelters, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs (01480 830014).

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QUARANTINE MUST GO!
(with your help, it will - and soon)

The Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund (QUAFF), with its 2,000 members and supporters, has thoroughly researched the legal position and made preparations to challenge Britain's cruel, out of date, and scientifically unjustifiable quarantine laws by Judicial Review, in Britain's High Court.

The Ministry of Agriculture cannot successfully defend a Judicial Review on quarantine because these hopelessly unscientific laws are wholly disproportionate to the risks and measures they were originally intended to protect.

Furthermore, British quarantine laws are incompatible with European Community Law and where there is conflict, Community Law takes precedence and, when challenged, has to be invoked through British courts.

It will be the first time in British legal history that an action for Judicial Review has been brought and paid for by individual contributions from the long-suffering public, under the auspices of an organisation run entirely by unpaid, but competent, hardworking volunteers. This case will bring an end to the quarantining of all certifiably rabies-free pets.

The present laws are in breach of the Treaty of Rome and are a preposterous infringement of our right to free movement with all our goods, under that Treaty. This, combined with the vast expense of quarantine, the cruelty involved and the frequently dismal quality of care in some of our profit-motivated, privately run British kennels where no statutory controls or minimum welfare standards apply, is simply not being tolerated. Understandably, pet 'smuggling' is now commonplace and with our open borders the health status of incoming pets cannot be monitored.

When the law is changed we will have freedom of movement for safely vaccinated pets AND much greater safety from rabies, for the public.

The Government's continuing intransigence, following its out-of-hand rejection of the House of Commons Select Committee to Agriculture's unanimous proposals for reform two years ago, and its failure to act on the scientific truth of the matter is a national disgrace.

Its recent promise of a Green Paper on reform which has been followed, incomprehensively, by an arrogant, unexplained U-turn, leaves the travelling public who are adversely affected with little choice but to proceed with legal action. The new government has no plans for reform.

The QUAFF Judicial Review Fund (held at Lloyds Bank plc, 10 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1HJ, bank Sort Code 30-91-07, account number 0558175), is a ring-fenced fund which can only be used for legal action to bring about an end to quarantine for certifiably rabies-free pets. It is overseen by our chartered accountants Sheen Stickland of Chichester, who are specialists in charity-type funds.

To date QUAFF has spent £3,000 on legal fees and QUAFF members have already raised over £10,000 for further legal proceedings, but an estimated additional £20,000 is needed to pay all the costs of the action. Any surplus funding to be passed on to the Animal Welfare Charities chosen by donors.

PLEASE JOIN US - and before long you will have been able to travel freely with your safely vaccinated pet. Many people are affected by these laws but if everyone who wishes or needs to be able to travel with their pets could contribute a small sum, the action can proceed quickly. For an information pack, write, fax or telephone:

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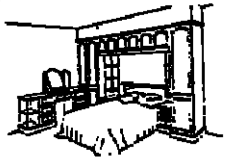

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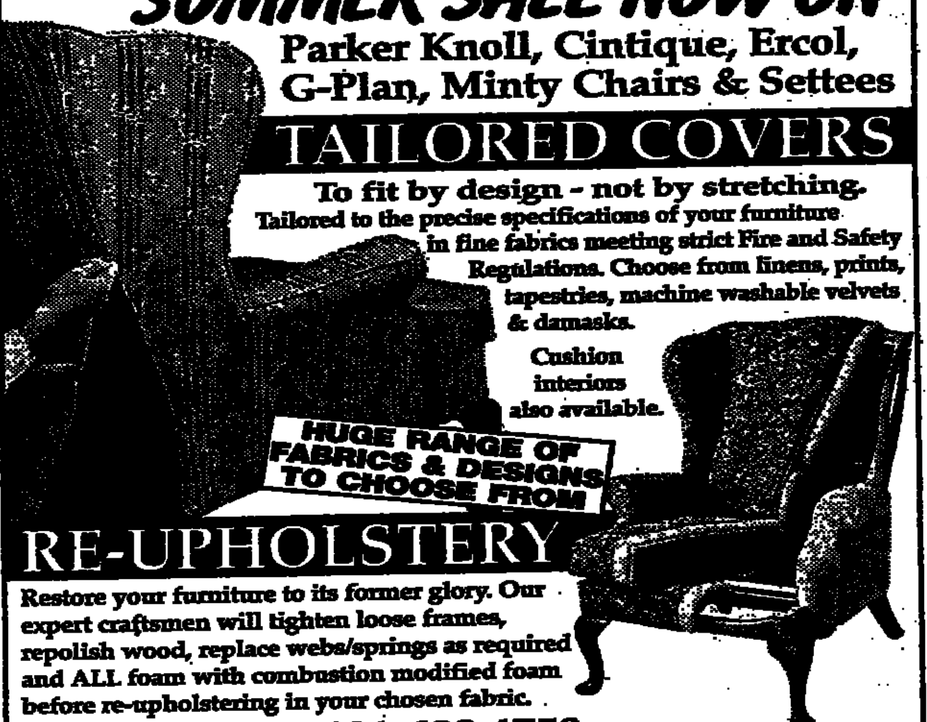

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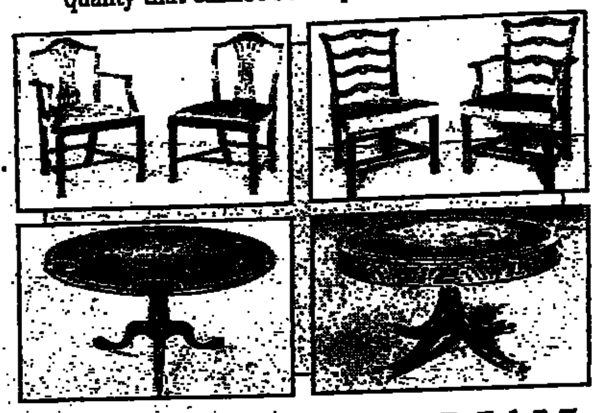

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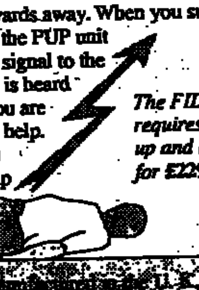

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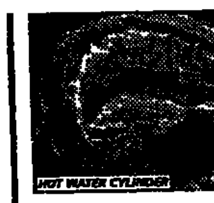
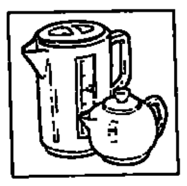
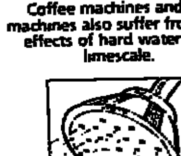


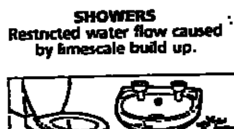
HARD WATER & LIMESCALE
have an adverse and detrimental effect on all households



KETTLES FURRED
Coffee machines and ice machines also suffer from the effects of hard water and limescale.



SHOWERS
Restricted water flow caused by limescale build up.



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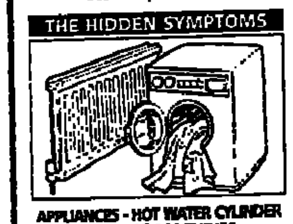
THE HIDDEN SYMPTOMS



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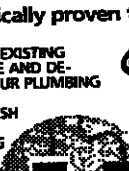

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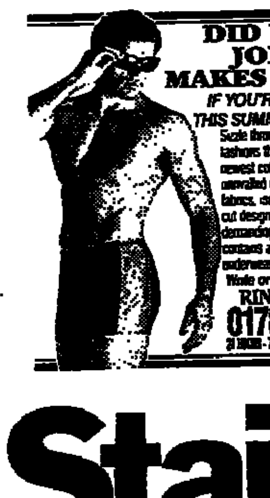

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After foxhunting, the protesters' next target will be their "right to roam" the countryside. Fine. But first let's get the facts straight

Ramblers are on the wrong track

In the heat of the battle over foxhunting, let us not forget another little rural skirmish about to break out. This fight will be over a loose and rambling concept called "the right to roam", which figured in the Labour Party manifesto. It sounds good, but does not bear close examination.

I once thought I would love to roam free, like the birds in the sky, like a gull across the oceans. So, to that beguiling end, I bought a beautiful leather rucksack in Switzerland. It was a work of art, made of the softest leather, and it clung to my back like a baby koala to its mother. Now, with my alpenstock in hand, I was ready to roam: I would scale the heights, yodel down the valleys, whistle *I love to go a wandering along the mountain tracks … fol de reee.* Swiss mountain holidays get you that way.

But if anyone believes that roaming free in Britain is likely to be a similar experience, they are in for a bitter disappointment. In fact, my knapsack has nestled at the back of the cupboard ever since Heathrow, and it will take more than legislation to persuade me to unearth it. I know that the hard-line ramblers see the "right to roam" as a freedom; the snipping of the fetters of trespass legislation. But for most of us, the idea of roaming is about as appealing as following in the footsteps of a bedraggled stray dog.

Imagine that the right to roam could be bestowed upon you right now, exactly where would you go? From where I sit, in an intensively arable part of Britain, the thought of striding through, or even around, a miserable field of uniform, heartless winter wheat seems about as much fun as strolling the desert. There is nothing to see; the flora has been beaten into submission by years of chemical application, the fauna has gone to other havens, or to virtual extinction.

If you live near the forests or moors you *might think* that they would provide a better terrain to roam. Not necessarily. Commercial forests are bleak places, ancient woodland is bewildering, and the moors are downright dangerous unless you are a near-professional walker. I deliberately paint a gloomy picture to try to make the point that the total "right to roam" is no great thing to fight for, for other than the hardened few. What most of us want from a country walk is to enjoy the scenery and the exercise, in an atmosphere free of restriction, while doing the least damage to the environment we enjoy.

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

The first step towards this goal, I believe, would be to sort out the mess of footpaths that criss-cross the countryside: a tangle of tracks spreading like a rampant bramble bush, some of them leading nowhere, some impossible to find, and many of which have completely lost the purpose for which they were originally intended. These make for glum walks indeed. I know that many local authorities have made great efforts to replace signposts and devise entertaining, circular routes, and have fought battles with reluctant farmers, but the policy has been based on the maintenance of existing paths, and not on devising new ones.

Some see our ancient footpath network as a national treasure to be preserved, but I do not. It is time for a clearout. Many of those I see are just so much lumber: signposts erected because some ancient, hallowed map shows that once upon a time people regularly walked this way, from long-demolished cottages to a long-closed school. But now the sign points into nowhere and, in order to satisfy those few who demand their "rights" irrespective of whether that particular right is worth having, these unused paths are maintained.

Landowners — those among them who see walkers as a plague of locusts — need not rub their hands with glee and assume that I am on their side. If they do, I must remind them how much public money subsidises their estates these days, and how they owe us some access in return.

Here is a suggestion (and I am open to any better): could we not redraw the footpath map, starting from scratch, on a mile for mile basis? That way, we might end up with better paths, to more interesting places, without any loss to the walker and, possibly, with great benefit to all sides.

Elected local committees, representing all interests, could agree the routes — and, if necessary, impose them on landowners — and the scope for inventiveness would be unlimited. This plan will take the determination of those who valiantly fought to create the Pennine Way and similar projects, but would it not be better than the present crazy system, which we cling to for no real reason other than that it was once scratched on vellum with a quill pen?

I would not be suggesting such an upheaval if there were no pressure on the countryside to support recreation; but there is. I see no indication that the numbers of "country users" is going to decline. Why shouldn't they walk footpaths which are chosen, maintained and signposted to offer some pleasure? Better that than a situation where the right to roam becomes misunderstood, and the hills and dales are littered with lost, bewildered souls trying to get some pleasure out of their new-found freedom. And ending up cut off by the motorway, or mired in an open-air piggery.

There is not enough countryside for us all to be able to roam wild and free. The Swiss, of course, understood this years ago and designed faultless footpaths. That is one of the reasons that their country is such a pleasure to walk. It is also why they sell more knapsacks.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Moving to the country? Beware

Diana Appleyard looked forward to living in deepest countryside, but the reality makes her heart sink

ASHLEY COOMBES

Diana and Ross Appleyard with their daughters: "Pleasure now is a walk with the dogs running ahead, finding pheasants"

Our old Georgian farmhouse in Oxfordshire is surrounded by fields and spinneys in which there are rabbits and foxes. My children play among the trees in the orchard and feed the horses at the bottom of the garden. Walking the dogs means only having to step out of the back door. And yet living here is driving me out of my mind. When London friends say "You're so lucky", I have to bite my lip. To disillusion them about their fantasy view of the country would be cruel.

It seems our decision to seek rural climes is a popular one. Between 1991 and 1995 more than 24,000 people migrated from town and city into "mixed urban and rural" — that is, the countryside and the more rural suburbs.

Often this movement is precipitated by a change in circumstances, such as starting a family and not wanting children to grow up in smog. Certainly when Fifi Trixiebelle came along, Paula Yates and Bob Geldof (her partner then) decided to flee the city and bought an old priory in rural Kent. At the time Yates said she wanted to give her children an old-fashioned childhood, with lots of daisy-chain making and lying in fields of cow parsley.

The writer Susan Hill says she has never regretted leaving the admittedly genteel surroundings of Old Town in Stratford-upon-Avon for her cottage in rural Oxfordshire. Perhaps the most famous rural escapee is the writer Jilly Cooper, who forsook Putney in southwest London for the wilds of Gloucestershire.

As a family, we have lived pretty well everywhere. We've been townies in the heart of Birmingham. We've lived in the semi-rural suburbs near Stratford-upon-Avon. Now we are festering in a sea of green, with nothing to see for miles but the odd tractor on the skyline. When once I could look out of the window on to people, cars and things happening, now I look out of the window on to mud. Acres and acres of it.

Our family life started in an area of Birmingham spoiled only by its proximity to Balsall Heath, most famous for its prostitutes. I was regularly propositioned by men leering out of Datsuns. My husband was mugged on his second day here while out jogging.

Yet there were pluses to living in the city. There was a wonderful crèche for my two-year-old daughter. At her playgroup she had Asian, African, Chinese and even Vietnamese friends. She learnt to count in Punjabi. Theatres, restaurants and cinemas were on our doorstep.

But after a year my husband in particular became fed up. Three times someone tried to break into the house. "Enough is enough," he said, and we began house-hunting in the countryside around Stratford-upon-Avon.

We ended up buying a barn on the outskirts of the beautiful small town of Alcester. This seemed like real countryside. We breathed in fresh, clean air every morning. The children could see cows from their bedroom window. They went to a small village school which had an old bell on top. We shopped locally and bought Barbours and green wellies, which never got very dirty. The children swam in streams, caught tadpoles and fished for minnows.

Then my husband was offered a job in London and we decided it was time to move towards the Big Smoke. But Birmingham had put us off sufficiently to make us look in the "real" countryside.

We found the old farmhouse one November day. Its windows were rotting, its heating was non-existent and cooking was done on an old, rusting range. But this was the country, and this was a real farmhouse. The first night we all slept in the same bed as the wind howled down the corridors and the windows rattled in their frames.

But we were used to the country. We had the wellies to prove it. Sadly our wellies were no match for the galloping mud. Putting on nice clothes has become pointless because (a) they would only get dirty, and (b) there is nowhere to go. Shopping has become a problem. I load up weekly at Tesco in Buckingham, eight miles away. Inevitably, there are things I run out of. I'll pop down to the local butchers, I think. Wrong. If there's an "r" in the month, it's closed.

Shops round here close every lunchtime at varying times for well over an hour, and when children need picking up from school; every Wednesday, because it's half-day closing so it's not worth opening at all; every Saturday from varying times, expressly designed to be five minutes before you confidently push down the door handle; every Monday, for no good reason at all.

On the subject of driving, it is a tough lesson in patience and fortitude to sit behind a tractor doing ten miles an hour for eight miles, while the 17-year-old lad driving it sits happily in the middle of the road, unable to hear my horn because he has Radio 1 on full blast. All the roads here are covered in twin tracks of foot-high mud, which means swerving about dementedly.

My daughters attend a school eight miles from our house. Most of my day seems to be spent speeding backwards and forwards to it, unless, of course, I am behind a tractor. Their friends live up to 15 miles away, and we seem to spend our life in the car. All our friends live hundreds of miles away, and we don't seem able to meet new ones, because there are few like-minded people in the vicinity. A visit to the pub is the pinnacle of our social life. Conversations about seed potatoes and crop rotation have become remarkably interesting.

If anyone talks to me in a shop, I have become pathetically grateful. A trip into Buckingham or Bicester has become a big event. Our spending on food/clothes/eating out has dropped dramatically, because I cannot get excited about an A-line lime green skirt in Bicester's top fashion outlet, and haute cuisine does not extend beyond pizza or steak and chips.

But there are compensations to our life in the real country. It is possible to make your heart-rate slow to almost nothing. Pleasure now is a walk in high, damp grass with the dogs running ahead, finding pheasants.

We leave our cars and house unlocked all the time. The other day someone left a bunch of fresh asparagus on the doorstep, because my husband had mentioned in the pub that we liked it. Nothing is too much trouble, and often payment is waved away with an embarrassed hand. You can buy things with no money — "Just drop it in later."

My children spend most of their time outside, making dens in the hay and digging in the mud. We rarely switch on the television; evenings are spent in the kitchen with a glass of wine, the dogs panting at our feet and the windows open on the night.

Real life seems a long, long way away and all would be well — if only I could find a shop that is open.

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Say goodbye to a melancholy clown

FEATHER REPORT

PETER BROWN

Puffins will leave soon

IF YOU WANT to see a puffin on your holiday, you will have to set out in the next two weeks. There are plenty to be found in Britain, but by early August they will be streaming away from their colonies to spend the winter out in the cold waters of the Atlantic.

Some of the best places to see them are in the Shetlands and on Orkney, and on St Kilda. There are also large numbers on the Farne Islands and the Isle of May, and in Wales on the islands of Skomer and Skokholm.

They nest in burrows on the cliff-tops, which they dig out with their beaks and sharp toenails, or in crevices on the side of cliffs. No bird is more unmistakeable. They are black above and white beneath, and they have extraordinary triangular beaks, which in summer are bright red at the front and blue at the back. They run over the clifftop grass, bending slightly forward, or stalk along more upright in what ornithologists call "the pelican position".

However, the breeding season is now approaching its end. Puffins normally lay one egg, and many of their solitary offspring have already come out of their burrows in the middle of the night, and sailed down to the sea.

But some young birds are still in the nest, and their parents are flying in regularly with beakfuls of sand-eels to feed them. So if you go to a puffin colony just now, you will find a great many down on the water below the cliffs, and a few still busy on top.

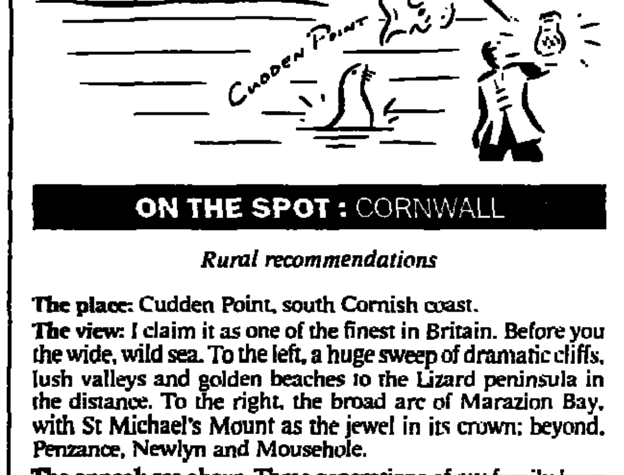
If you get a good view of them, you can see their strangely sad or anxious faces — an effect I think of the crushed and distorted look of their eyes. Then they seem like melancholy clowns.

By next month, their colourful beak-plates will be falling off. Their winter beaks will be smaller, though still quite colourful — pale orange in front, and bluish-grey behind. By early August, they will all be swimming about on the water. Their final departure for the distant ocean is like an opera singer's farewell. One morning they are gone, and you think that is goodbye — but the next day they are all back again. So it goes on several times more. But one day they have really gone — and until next spring it is only sharp-eyed observers on sea-going ships who will see their stubby shapes over the water, or riding up and down dauntlessly on the crashing waves.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for a black-headed bunting at Lundy Island, Devon; a king eider at Leven, Fife. Twitchers — look out for a young black-headed gulls and common terns. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

JANE SPENCER



ON THE SPOT : CORNWALL

Rural recommendations

The place: Cudden Point, south Cornish coast.

The view: I claim it as one of the finest in Britain. Before you the wide, wild sea. To the left, a huge sweep of dramatic cliffs, lush valleys and golden beaches to the Lizard peninsula in the distance. To the right, the broad arc of Marazion Bay, with St Michael's Mount as the jewel in its crown; beyond, Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole.

The appeal: see above. Three generations of my family have taken the same summer holiday house near by for 20 years: it will probably not be long before there's a fourth to share the exhilarating climb up to Cudden Point.

Historical interest: every cove here speaks of Cornwall's maritime past. Below the cliffs to the east is Prussia Cove, named after a notorious local smuggler, the "King of Prussia". The wreckers did their deadly work from these beaches. Just below Cudden Point a huge wooden spar has been driven into the cliff top; it came from the *Warspite*, which served in both world wars before losing her tow line in April 1947 while en route to a breaker's yard, and sinking off St Michael's Mount. Behind Cudden Point is an old look-out house, built as a First World War coastal protection station.

Time to visit: any time, although the South Cornish Coastal Path can be a bit nose-to-tail in high summer. Try early spring, when the sea boils at the foot of the cliffs and the sheer cliff faces are carpeted with wild pink mesembryanthemums; or early autumn, when seals play in the coves.

How to get there: by train to Penzance or by car into Marazion (park near the beach), then strike out east along the coastal footpath (well marked); or by car to Rosudgeon village (on the main Penzance-Helston coast road), then walk down to Prussia Cove and head west.

OS reference: Sheet 203 (Land's End and The Lizard), 548275.

Also near by: the local pubs are less than picturesque, so take your own picnic — the sea breeze (a quaint local name for howling gale) produces a ferocious hunger.

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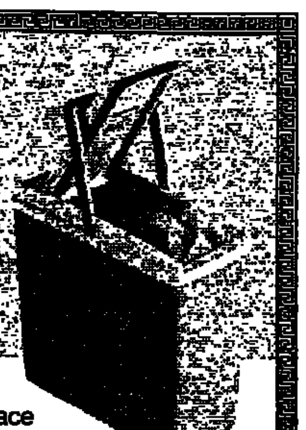

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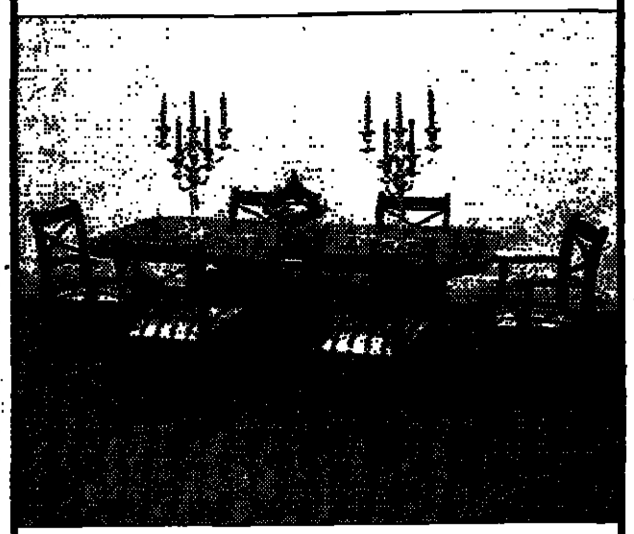

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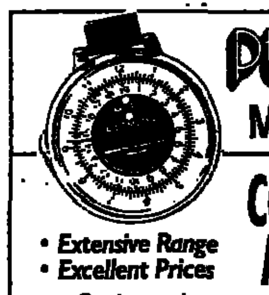

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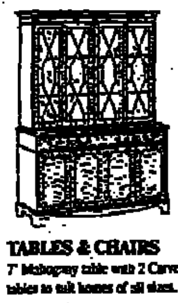

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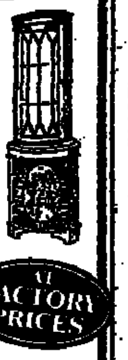

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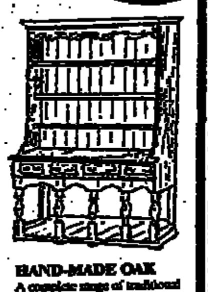

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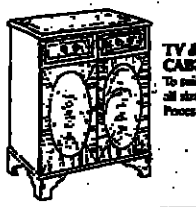

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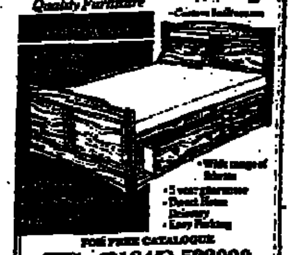

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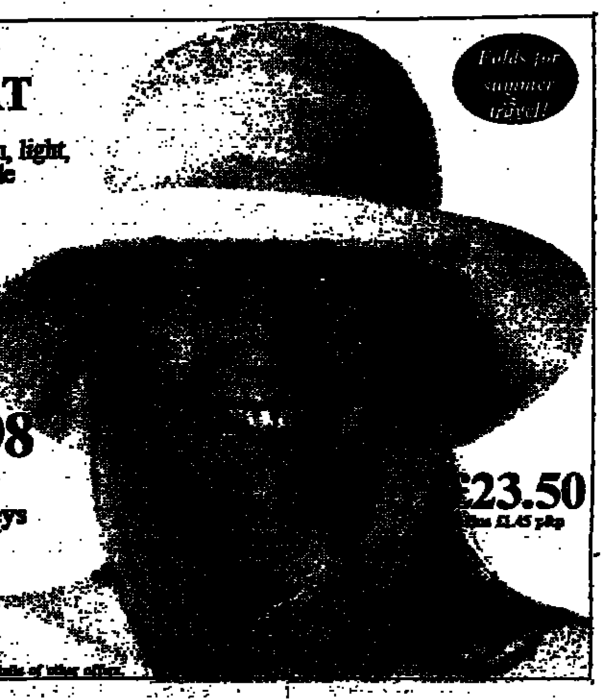

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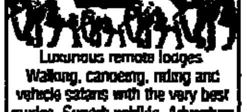

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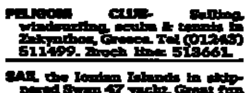

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NORMANDY Lovely old farmhouse, sleeps up to 15, v. comfortable. Tel: 0181 3826162.

NORMANDY Gites de France cottages. 120 coastal & rural locations 01922 725705 AITO.

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FRANCE

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THE TIMES travel

Guide to the best places to tee off

golf breaks · 16-17

To go wherever the cargo goes

A container ship cruise? Let's hope you're a sea lover and don't have fixed holidays

IMAGE BANK

All aboard: a container ship in the harbour at Seattle. The passengers take second place to the cargo and arrival and departure times are liable to change without warning, as are scheduled ports of call

Voyaging by container ship is different. Start by accepting that the passengers take second place to the cargo. You will be comfortably quartered and well fed, but the ship's rules must be obeyed and when the captain says "jump" it is as well to show signs of movement. Arrival and departure times are liable to change without warning, as will the scheduled ports of call. Allow for the unexpected is a cardinal rule of container travel.

I made my booking to Auckland with the help of a shipping agent and the *ABC Shipping Guide*, which details the shipping lines willing to take passengers. Those who do, usually stipulate an age limit of 70 to 80 — and even over-60s have to provide a doctor's certificate. Ships that carry fewer than ten passengers, which is most of them, do not have to have a doctor on board. And you need to be fairly fit to climb all the stairs. The cabins are about the highest part of the vessel and lifts, like stabilisers, are unnecessary luxuries.

My journey started one foggy Saturday morning on the dockside at Felixstowe. It was not hard to find the *Contship Australia*, a massive hulk that belies her name by flying the German flag. The reception on board was cursory, to say the least. I was not asked for ticket, passport or any of the other documents I had so carefully assembled.

But don't be misled. The paperwork is essential and it is as well to check out visa requirements for any of the stop-off points. Don't be like the Swiss couple who, lacking the necessary documents, had to stay on board for an entire round-the-world voyage.

Having established that I was at the right place at the right time, my steward, a smiling Filipino with gleaming white teeth, gathered my luggage and led me on the long climb to my quarters just below the bridge. My home for the next seven weeks was a spacious, well-furnished lounge with a separate bedroom and my own bathroom.

I made my way to the officers' mess for breakfast, expecting the engines to come to life signalling our departure for Le Havre. No such luck. When I came back for lunch, we were still tied up at Felixstowe and it was not until late in the afternoon that we eventually set sail. Then I was told of a change of plan. The first stop was not to be Le Havre: we were making for Hamburg, home port of the *Contship Australia*.

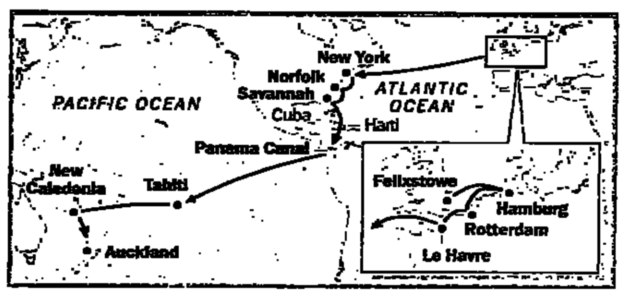
While my first two weeks on board were lonely affairs, supper gave me the opportunity to meet the captain and his officers. It was all very informal. On a container ship no one judges you by your clothes. There is none of that keeping up with the Joneses you find on cruise liners. Trousers, a collection of T-shirts, a jumper or two, with shorts and sun tops for the tropics are the sartorial mainstays. The choice of shoes is important. Rope soles are ideal. Trainers are fine in cool, wet climates but are unbearably hot in the Pacific or Indian Oceans. There are no shops on board. Pills, potions and ointments have to be bought in advance. There is, however, a comfortable bar dispensing an unlimited supply of duty-free drinks.

Churning up the muddy waters of the Elbe, we were welcomed by *Deutschland Uber Alles* relayed by loudspeakers from the shore. Three more passengers joined us at Hamburg: a middle-aged couple and a heavyweight who, by his own admission, ate enough for two.

Next stop Le Havre? Oh, no; not yet. At noon the next day we were in Rotterdam, Europe's largest container port, with storage tanks and enormous derricks as far as the eye could see. Loading took longer than expected. We sailed the following day, bound for Dunkirk. But we did make it to Le Havre, one week after leaving Felixstowe.

The next leg of the journey was the eight-day crossing to New York. To ride the ocean waves on a massive container ship, you need to love the sea in all its moods. No effort is made to keep the passengers occupied. There is a swimming pool, sauna and gym — and for easy relaxation, a selection of videos, though these are chosen more for the crew than the passengers. You have the run of the ship, but learn quickly when to keep out of the way.

New York was a welcome change of environment. A taxi ordered by an obliging radio officer was waiting to take us on what turned out to be a snail's pace tour of the town. It was Columbus Day and the whole population seemed to be on the move. We made two more calls in the US — at Norfolk, Virginia, and Savannah, Georgia — before starting on the longest non-stop leg of the journey through the Panama Canal and to Tahiti. Out came the shorts and deck chairs, and the swimming pool was filled with warm sea water. We saw the Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti as dots on the horizon.



As we approached Cristobal, the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal, the sea filled with ships of all sizes and nationalities, waiting for their turn to cross to the Pacific Ocean. Two powerful tugs shoved the *Contship Australia* into position for the first of the three huge locks, which were to raise us 250ft above sea level. By the time we reached the lock gates, the short equatorial dusk had turned to night and we crossed through the canal by moonlight.

Eight hours later we sailed into the steamy heat of the South Pacific where, after sunrise, it was too hot to sit on our balcony. After two days we sighted the jagged mountains of Tahiti. As it was sunset and too late for the pilot to tow us to our berth, it was not until the morning that we tied up in Papeete harbour. A minibus was waiting to take us on a tour of the island. A couple from Brazil who were travelling in the opposite direction regaled us with stories of the dreadful weather in New Zealand, my destination, which was only three days away.

But there was to be a further delay. Instead of sailing in a southwesterly direction towards New Zealand, we were to head northeast to New Caledonia. The island was appropriately named. On our arrival my frustration ebbed away as we entered a narrow channel, flanked by mountain scenery reminiscent of the west coast of Scotland. The narrow channel widened into a limpid green lagoon, so shallow that even the swimming pool had to be emptied to lighten the ship.

There was more delay when a French ship jumped the queue and took our place at the quay. Our captain's ire, voiced resoundingly in three languages, forced the offending vessel to give way, only for us to see it get stuck fast at the harbour entrance. It had to wait for the incoming tide to lift it clear. And I did make it to Auckland. Eventually.

KATALIN SHIRLEY-SMITH

FACT FILE

- The author paid £4,000 for her journey. It was scheduled to take five weeks and ended as seven.
- The Cruise People (0171-723 2450) arranges worldwide journeys including UK-Fremantle (Australia) for £1,900 single (26 days) and UK-Cape Town for £1,300 (17 days).
- Cargo Ship Voyages (01473 736265) also has a four-week round trip on a banana boat to Belize and Honduras (£1,980) and a two-month Indian Ocean container ship trip, £3,400.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Travel by Cargo Ship* (Cadogan, £12.99).

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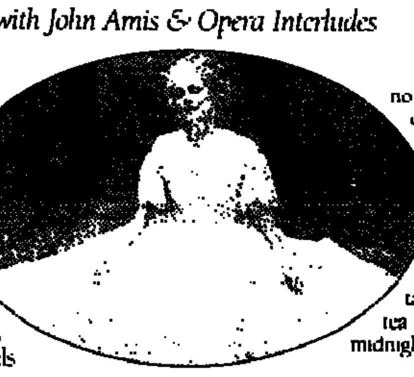

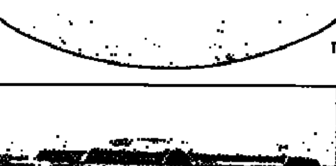

Golf holidays: The rigours — and joys — of courses in Bermuda, the south of France and Tenerife . . .

Game plan for playing away

AT THE HALFWAY point of the Open, the appetites of many golfers will have been whetted by the prospect of emulating Woods and Montgomerie on their local courses. But in the middle of a wet and windy weekend many will hanker for golf that is far away from the crowds.

So, too, will the legions of fairweather and holiday golfers who do not belong to a club, and for whom the thought of playing away also holds great appeal.

Golf holidays abroad are big business, from a hop across the Channel to a big budget blow-out in the Caribbean. An estimated 200,000 played away last year, not including those who pack in a round or two as part of a family holiday.

The stereotypical image is of middle-aged, male-bonding groups descending on the Algarve or the Costa del Sol. But there is also a growing demand for learn-to-play holidays and hotels that cater for golfers and their non-playing partners.

Thomson Holidays is among the mainstream operators which now features golf as an option in its summer brochures. The weekend break market to Ireland and France is also swinging upwards, with golfers combining a round with an evening out in Dublin or Le Touquet.

The main golfing holiday destinations are Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland and the USA, which account for 95 per cent of sales. But other heavyweight contenders now include Dubai and Thailand, both of which have invested heavily in golf in order to broaden their tourism appeal. Tunisia and Morocco cater well for beginners, with cheap golf on good courses that cost half the amount you would expect to pay across the Mediterranean in Portugal and Spain.

BERMUDA

WE KNEW we were on the right golf course when the barman at the pitstop at the 10th told us Clint Eastwood was on the next hole. Pulling up behind his buggy two holes later, we watched a perfect pitch thud into the heart of the green. It would have made my day but if it made Clint's, he wasn't sharing.

Bermuda's Mid Ocean club has a history of distinguished visitors. Eisenhower and Churchill met here in the late 1940s, though for discussion rather than competition as the British leader was no golfer. It cultivates an air of exclusivity, especially in the opulent clubhouse, a first cousin to Mayfair's clubland in that it has 20 bedrooms reserved for members and friends. Happily, the haughtiness is deceptive, as we discovered when we returned to play later in the week. Here, as in most Bermuda clubs, the dress code is relaxed to a point that would cause apoplexy in mid-Surrey.

With six par 4s over 400 yards and a 238 yard par 3, Mid Ocean was never going to be easy. Then came a true signature hole, the dogleg 5th with a raised tee overlooking an arm of the sea and a narrow landing zone. When my companion found the fairway after drowning a dozen attempts, the air was as blue as the ocean.

I did not have to wait long for my own Waterloo at the 7th, where failure to land accurately on a thin strip of grass between duckponds leads to equal frustration. At the 8th there is a lake to cross and so it goes on, a tough course with sea views that are as distracting as the hazards. By the time we sank into the deep leather seats in the clubhouse, no barman could make a Dark and Stormy cocktail strong enough to assuage our pain.

Bermuda is the ultimate mid-Atlantic experience, an isolated fish hook of an island ringed on three sides by coral reefs and wrecked ships. It has the highest concentration of golf courses in the world. There are eight in all (a ninth is on the way), five of them over 5,500 yards, and the complex geography ensures a variety of challenges, with the nerve to hit over long stretches of water often at a premium.

My base was the Lantana Colony Club, run for about 30 years by Paul Leseur and his family. The accommodation is in luxury cottages on the water's edge, with fine dining in airy public rooms set higher up on the hillside. When I asked how I could get round the island, Mr Leseur suggested I hire a scooter. With golf clubs? He looked horrified, but that is what I did, travelling with my bag securely hooked on to the wire basket at the back.

Cottages at the Lantana Colony Club

I warmed up for Mid Ocean on some of the other courses, starting with the Southampton Princess, a hilly 18-hole executive par 3 attached to a strawberry pink hotel. In theory, an executive par 3 gives you 18 chances to hit a hole in one, all failures in my case. An enterprising local was selling "experienced" golf balls — three dozen for $15: a rare Bermuda bargain.

Port Royal, the venue for the Bermuda Open, is both more relaxed and more challenging. Playing it on the afternoon when Hurricane Lili finally cleared the island also proved that it is remarkably well drained. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, it is ingeniously contoured into impressive coral cliffs.

His 176-yard signature par three at the 16th positively begs a long hitter to strike out over the green into the ocean. Once again, the air turned blue as balls pinged off rocks.

MINTY CLINCH

- *Harlequin Worldwide Travel (01708 852780) offers half-board at Lantana from £1,760 for a week including four rounds at Port Royal. Longshot Golf (01730 268621) also has a Bermuda brochure.*
- *The author travelled with Bermuda Tourism (0171-771 7001).*

Mid Ocean club in Bermuda, a tough course with duckponds at the 7th, a lake at the 8th and distracting sea views

Don't drive into the Med

[illegible]

WALKING from 10th green to 11th tee at Golf de Ste Maxime up a steep, windy and seemingly never-ending path is an act of folly certain to be punished by heaving chest and scrambled senses. Far better to use a buggy, or the thoughtfully installed *funiculaire*, the glorious sight that awaits.

Whether the body has been all but broken by the twisting and testing par-71 course, or the round has long since degenerated amid the fiendishly placed water and surrounding cork oak, nothing can detract from the view. The mountains of Maures lurk behind, Ste Maxime sits elegantly below, St Tropez shimmers in the distance.

From the 16th, too, the duffed drives and missed putts pale into insignificance. Peer down on the village of Agay and the town of St Raphael; gaze out over the deep blue Mediterranean. Golf on the Côte d'Azur can be infinitely pleasurable.

'The view from the 16th means you forget the duffed drives and putts'

Ste Maxime, cut from rock 150 metres above sea level and served by a luxurious 111-bedroom hotel, offers a cerebral challenge for the raw beginner, moderate middle-handicapper or single-figure expert. Executive clients can arrive in style by helicopter, temporarily shattering the all-enveloping tranquillity.

Grasse Country Club, along the coast to Cannes and then inland, is similarly situated, this time about 600 metres high and carved into a mountainside that also houses, on its summit, the local prison. Yet while the Japanese-owned and French-designed estate undoubtedly captures the imagination and is pleasing on the eye, it is for the experienced golfer only.

Royal Mougins Golf Club, back towards the Riviera, is of gentler persuasion. The pretty par-71 meanders through a valley of lakes, mini-waterfalls and streams. It may reek of exclusivity, with the overlooking apartments costing up to £215,000, but the course is inviting and in no way invincible. Holes called "Amphitheatre", "Umbrella Pine" and "Angel's Dive" provide thought-provoking obstacles for amateur and professional alike.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

- *For a Riviera fact file and information on golfing in France, call France Information on 0891 244123 (calls charged 50p/min).*
- *Green fees: Golf de Ste Maxime, £25; Grasse Country Club, £23; Royal Mougins Golf Club, £33.*

A nice bit of rough

TENERIFE

AS WE walked towards the 18th green, my playing partner's thoughts drifted from our game to our surroundings: "This will be really nice when it's finished." He was referring to the unkempt, rock-strewn rough that bordered, and rather spoilt, the well manicured fairways of the Amarilla Golf and Country Club. He could equally have been musing about the southern half of Tenerife.

The sprawling resort of Playa de las Americas and the slightly more upmarket Los Cristianos are expanding with loud, garish, neon-lit bars and clubs. A relaxing game of golf would appear the ideal antidote — which brings me back to the Amarilla.

The volcanic structure of the island means building and maintaining courses here is no mean feat. Bermuda grass has to be imported, while bunker sand is black, gravel-like grit indigenous to the island.

During my visit, the fairways were lined by rubble as the owners sought to redesign some holes and add new ones. But the fairways and greens are superbly tended.

It is part links and part parkland, fairly hilly, offering wonderful scenery and spectacular sea views. Many holes run along or towards the seafront and the short 5th insists you make a daunting tee shot over a rocky inlet. White speckles in the sand below show many golfers failed to rise to the challenge.

To escape the south or for a more peaceful holiday, head north where the climate is cooler and less arid. Puerto de la Cruz is more upmarket and caters for an older clientele, reflected at the Real Club de Golf de Tenerife, about 15 miles away. Founded in 1931, the influence of 19th-century British traders is seen in the cosy and relaxed atmosphere of the plush clubhouse.

The 6,291-yard, par 71 course nestles among laurels, pine trees and eucalyptus. Hiking boots seemed more appropriate for some of the more tortuous climbs, but the real physical and mental challenge came from trying to conquer the testing par threes.

BRIAN O. MORGAN

Golf del Sur, Tenerife, where courses are well maintained

CLIVE PETTY

- *The author travelled with Longshot Golf Holidays (01730 268621). Prices for Tenerife from £365 for seven nights' half-board, flights, car hire and golf.*

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BARBADOS

Paradise — but at a price

Royal Westmoreland has a touch of American trickery

TONY STONE

Lining up on the green in Barbados for the winning shot

SLIDING off for five hours to play golf is not always popular with your partner. But it is easier in Barbados as the perfect climate, fanned by balmy trade winds, is the biggest attraction for non-golfers, too. The water sports, deep-sea fishing and idyllic beaches are not far behind, either.

Inevitably, the holiday is beach-based which, while enjoyable, is not enough for addicted golfers. So, each day off, we went to the oasis of the golf course. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, the Royal Westmoreland is reminiscent of the best of British heathland courses with a touch of American trickery, complicated further by the ever-present breezes.

For a change of scenery and an equally difficult challenge, play at the older Sandy Lane Hotel par 72 course. At present it is undergoing an expensive facelift to compete with its newer rival, yet it is certainly not easy for the once-a-week hacker.

Among the dos and don'ts of golf in Barbados: do put enough sun block on to protect your nose and knees and do not play against the legendary Gary Sobers. With a bad hip and wonky eye off a generous handicap of 8, he played the back nine against me in four under par. As he took the money, he assured me: "I can't putt. If I could, I might have made a good golfer."

In a more profitable encounter, I played a round with Mr Trent Jones Jr, a man so in love with his job that he could not resist a lyrical hole-by-hole description. The Royal Westmoreland occupies the site of a 480-acre sugar plantation three-quarters of a mile above the Atlantic, and Trent Jones Jr has used the sandy slopes, coral cliffs and rocky ravines to great effect.

"I've tried to listen to the land and tailored the golf course to nature, rather than create something artificial," he said. "By using the existing features I've aimed to give players the idea of channelling their ball into the greens."

However, there is one small drawback: Barbados is not cheap in season from December to March. Despite the strain on one's credit cards, I comforted myself with the thought that any taste of paradise always has a price.

NICHOLAS LLOYD

● *The Royal Westmoreland (001 246 422 4653) has seven-night rentals from £1,795 for a two-bedroom villa. Flights and transfers not included.*

● *Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) has seven nights in the Royal Pavilion Hotel including British Airways flights from £1,237 per person.*

NEWSTEAM MANCHESTER

With so many golf courses now available around the world, many with top-class hotels attached or nearby, holidays with friends or partners are becoming easy to arrange

Friends are par for the course

At Daytona Beach, 50 miles northeast of Orlando in Florida, free golf is on offer. Hotel tariffs are at an off-season low rate, about £40 a room. The rub is that the offer applies until late September when temperatures climb. But 90F is the peak, the courses are at their best and air-conditioning is standard in the hotels, which overlook the beach.

For information, call 0171-935 7756.

☐ OF SIMILAR style is Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, arguably the world's golf capital with 100 courses, most close to a wide choice of hotels overlooking the beach where après golf delights sate a dedicated hedonist and, because of keen competition, good value is standard.

British Airways Golf Holidays (01293 723131) from £699 per person.

☐ THE CHOICE for golfing couples is growing, proving romance and golf are compatible. Stylish hotels are the key and two in Vermont fit the bill. The Equinox Hotel at Manchester and The Inn at Woodstock

INTERNATIONAL

are renowned and each has a course ranked among Vermont's best.

For information, call Vermont Tourism (001 802 828 3237).

☐ FOR A short break off the beaten track, golfing groups would enjoy Dublin and Jerez. An incongruous mix, but the golf is of comparable quality, though Dublin has more of it. From Grafton Street you could reach 50 courses within the hour.

CIE Tours (0990 143910) has a golfing brochure to Ireland with prices from £154 for two nights B&B and golf.

☐ JEREZ has one course but, like the hotel which overlooks it, Montecastillo is among Spain's finest. Situated off the beaten track about an hour north of Gibraltar, the Jack Nicklaus-designed course will stage the Volvo Masters for the first time in October.

KB Golf (01254 235608) has prices for January from £315 per person for three nights, sharing a twin, including flights and car hire.

ARGUABLY the finest hotel in Majorca, Read's Hotel is near the Santa Maria, 15 minutes north of Palma and convenient for a necklace of courses ringing the capital. The building is an old farmhouse set in acres of gardens with 15 double rooms and six suites.

Read's Hotel (0034 7114 0261) from £100 double B&B. Golf can be arranged; green fees about £25.

BARRY WARD

● *The author is travel editor of* Golf Monthly *magazine.*

GOLFING HOLIDAYS FACT FILE

■ Specialists include: UK: Crystal (0181-390 8513). France/Ireland: A Golfing Experience (0181-205 7138). France: Cresta (0161-929 1311); French Golf Holidays (01277 374374); Brittany Ferries Holidays (0990 360360). USA: Destination Golf (0181-891 5151). Tunisia: Panorama (01273 746877). Caribbean: Caribbean Connection (01244 341131). Worldwide: Longshot Golf (01730 268621); British Airways Holidays (01293 723131); Lotus Supertravel Golf (0171-962 9494).

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *World's Great Golf Courses*, by Michael Hobbs (Apple, £8.95); *Golf Digest: 4200 Best Places to Stay*, (Fodor, £13.99).

Tee off for the mountains

THE ALPS

IT WAS Switzerland that began Alpine golf when the European leisured classes created a course near the ski resort of St Moritz in 1893. Now the country has 54 golf courses, 16 of them dating from before the Second World War. The courses exploited the beauty of the mountain scenery though, for ease of construction, they were built on the flattest ground that could be found — on the plateau at Crans Montana and in the valley at Davos, for instance.

Austria's first course was built in Vienna in 1901 but most of its mountain courses, with the exception of Dellach which dates back to 1927, Kitzbühel's Schloss Kaps (1955), Moosburg (1960) and Seefeld (1968), have come in a burst of more than 60 new courses in the past 20 years.

Natural hazard: Alpine cow enjoys the golf at Innsbruck

Building a golf course on a mountain is risky for the developer. Construction is expensive, the season is short (starting soon after the snows melt in April and only lasting until October) and green fees are limited by what the tourist will pay — somewhere in the region of £20 to £35.

However, ski resorts, rich in money from the winter, will often take the gamble to attract the illusive summer visitors to fill their empty hotel beds. For the golfer, hotel prices are at low season rates and villages that bustle in the winter are natural and uncrowded. Above 1,000 metres the heavy muggy summer air of the valleys becomes fresh and, when the sky is blue, the wind light, the views stunning and the greens fast, there is nowhere better for golf.

The quality of courses varies. Some are designed not to frustrate the high handicap golfer too much — like the three at Kitzbühel in the Austrian Tyrol or Davos in Switzerland. Others are championship courses such as Zell am See, in Salzburgerland, and Crans Montana where the European Masters is played. Many simply present the golfer with a delightful switchback up and down the sort of sweeping contours that course architects would die for.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

● *Swiss National Tourist Office (0171-734 1921); Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).*

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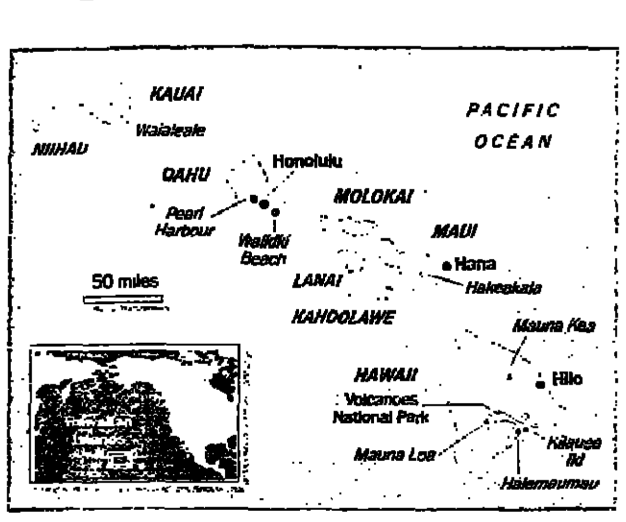
Volcanic islands: Apart from their many other pleasures, Hawaii and Iceland enthral with fiery displays

Fun with fire and brimstone



It seemed like madness to walk down into the crater of Kilauea Iki, one of the many active volcanoes on the turbulent Big Island of Hawaii, especially when I knew that a few hours away from its wet, sinister mountains the sun was shining and tourists frolicking in lagoons full of brightly coloured fish.

But the slopes of these smouldering giants are draped reassuringly in native rainforest, whose birdsong and trilling of crickets lured me into the pit and on to the crater floor.

It is an intimidating sight — a blackened wasteland, with steam pouring from sulphur-lipped fissures. Underfoot the crust feels brittle and ready to crack. Thick slabs of rock are piled one upon the other as if punched up from below. When I stood still, heat seared the soles of my shoes. Steam and mist thickened around me, hiding the path.

The crater seemed alive with menace. Yet I reached the safety of the other side with something like disappointment — so I turned around and did it all again.

The Volcanoes National Park provides a fascinating break from the more usual pleasures of Hawaii's beaches. Four thousand feet above sea level, it contains the largest active volcano on earth, Mauna Loa, and its innumerable offspring, including the two-mile wide Kilauea caldera, Halemaumau and Kilauea Iki, comparatively a pipsqueak, but still huge.

Mauna Loa stands nearly 14,000ft above the sea and has a surface area that occupies more than half of the Big Island, or Hawaii to give it its proper name. For 150 years it has routinely brought death and destruction to towns and farmlands. Earthquakes shake its snow-covered summit and, since 1983, a vent in Kilauea has been pumping lava seven miles to the sea, creating more island.

Reaching the top of Mauna Loa takes a two-day tramp and climbers need to be prepared for the worst conditions. (Another behemoth, the 10,000ft Haleakala, or the House of the Sun, on the island of Maui, is much more accessible. Parties of cyclists are driven to its summit for a day's downhill ride. It is also possible to camp overnight in its crater and have a clear view of the firmament and, a local hippie told me, the UFOs.)

I spent several hours crossing the main Kilauea caldera which, despite its expanse, is thick with pungent fumes. The path took me over hardened magma to Halemaumau (also reachable from the Rim road), a deep crater within the caldera. Staring into its smoking, sulphurous maw I could not resist thinking in fire and brimstone clichés: it is truly hellish. Upon its blasted rim were several floral garlands, thrown there to placate the goddess Pele, who is believed to dwell inside.

Such is the enchantment of the volcanoes that I found myself later that day, legs aching, having hiked caldera, lava and devastation trails, almost running in order to reach the summit of an ancient cinder cone, peer into it and get back to the road before nightfall marooned me in a pitch black wasteland. These laval deserts are eerie and at night the park is desolate — and freezing.

The nearby village of Volcano closes early and has a gloomy air, but in my B&B, an old missionary house, I was treated like family and the village's Kilauea Lodge provided me with the best meal I have eaten in an American state.

'The heat from the ground seared the soles of my shoes'

Until recently the park's lava flow was the red-hot night-time attraction — a viscous river of fire that could be watched from close range. In February the flow stopped, why or for how long nobody knows. I consoled myself with a long soak in thermally heated ponds and gaped at the stars.

It is wet in the volcanoes park — the nearest city of Hilo boasts the biggest raindrops ever measured. It is wetter still on parts of Kauai, the Garden Island, northernmost in the Hawaii chain and home to a small-scale Grand Canyon and fluted mountains of a preternatural steepness. In fact, its Mount Waialeale is said to be the wettest spot on earth. (These crumbs of land demand superlatives. Another is that they are the most geographically isolated place in the world — 2,500 miles from any land mass.)

And on Maui, mecca for windsurfers, alternative lifestylers and rich golfers, a downpour hit with such ferocity that I thought it would wash my car off the narrow Hana "highway" that winds around the cliffs above a gorgeous, battered, shoreline.

All this precipitation is a far cry from the holiday postcards, but the beach bum need not despair: most of Hawaii is drenched in nothing but sunshine. Besides, the rain brings plenty to be grateful for. The islands are cloaked in verdancy, either as pasture, plantation or, more pleasingly, forest. Native trees, ferns and shrubs grow with primeval luxuriance, illuminated by burst of colour from orchids, anthuricums, hibiscus, and a thousand other flowering plants. Guava, pineapple, bananas and other fruit grow abundantly, sometimes lying by the road and on trails, and coconuts, mangoes and papaya cost little at roadside stalls.

The rain also feeds waterfalls. A 20-minute meander off the main highway on the Big Island through a tropical forest thick with giant bamboo brought me to a cataract dropping hundreds of feet into the mist.

The regiments of Japanese tourists seen running to follow their tour leader's commands — and most other visitors to Hawaii — miss such out-of-the way treats. The majority do not leave Oahu.

This island, with 80 per cent of the population, is Hawaii's engine room, powered by the capital, Honolulu, and the much maligned beachstrip of Waikiki, a hotel jungle that hums with air-conditioning and honeymooners. Its urban humidity is made heavier by swooning guitars, fast food and duty-free perfume.

But for a holiday of sunbathing and shopping, Waikiki is an ideal destination. Prices are reasonable, it is safe, and everything is on tap, including not-so-cheap thrills such as paragliding, submarine trips and boat rides. Palms beckon lazily and there is excellent snorkelling and diving. Good surfing is possible at Waikiki too — for the good surfer.

For this neophyte, boogie boarding offered enough excitement, and more than enough scrapes with the coral reef. I also followed the lifesaver's advice on a beach at the surfing Elysium of the North Shore and stayed out of the bone-crunching waves.

Despite its cars and consumerism, Oahu is friendly and relaxed, but the truly easy-going islands of Kauai, Lanai, Molokai and Maui are only a plane hop away. Each has its own character but all cater to a diversity of holiday styles. (There are 132 islands in all and a new one is on its way: Loihi, at present 3,000ft below the surface of the Pacific, is being thrust up from the hot spot that created the other islands and in a mere 10,000 years will join the chain.)

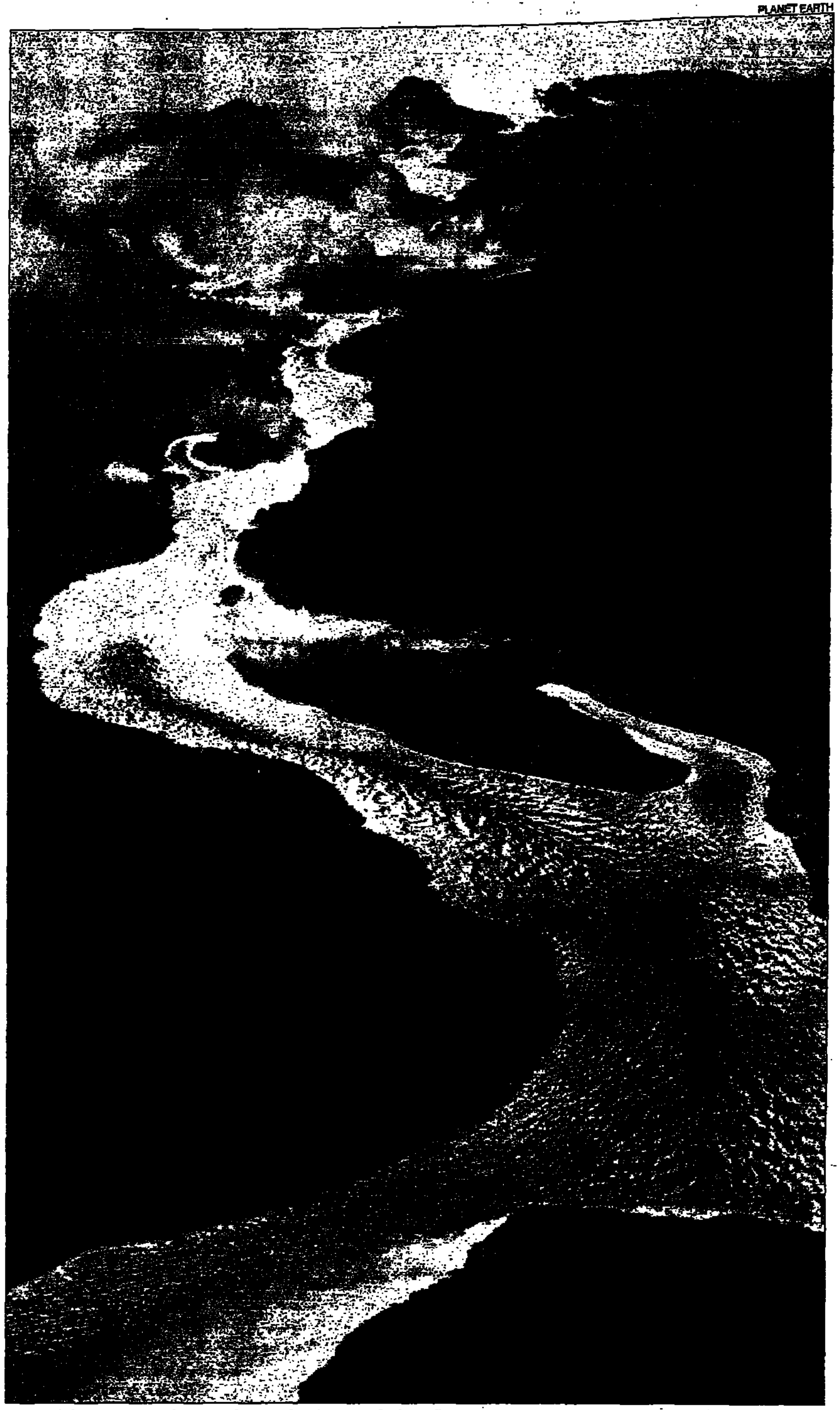
Volcanoes and ocean are the forces that created Hawaii and it was the Pacific that provided the other great unexpected pleasure of my week's stay: whale watching.

Humpback whales calve and nurse their young in Hawaii's waters from late November to May. On Maui, Kauai and Oahu, whenever I joined the throng of people gazing out to sea, I saw signs of life. Witnessing 40 tons of blubber erupt from the sea, rotate for a look around and crash backwards into the water will stir the blood of the most blasé tourist.

DIGBY HILDRETH

HAWAII FACT FILE

- **Air New Zealand (0181-741 2299) flies four days a week from Heathrow to Honolulu from £526. Aloha Airlines, bookable through ANZ, offers inter-island airpasses for £40 a sector.**
- **Package deals to the "Neighbour Islands", including flights, first-class hotels and car rentals are worth checking out in Waikiki. Car rental varies between islands but on Maui the author rented a car from Budget for $13 a day plus tax and insurance (optional).**
- **Accommodation: My Island B&B at Volcano (001 808 967 7216) from $50 (£32) a night for two sharing, $35 a single, plus tax; Royal Grove Hotel, Waikiki (001 808 923 7691) $57 a double, $48 a single plus tax.**
- **Further details from Hawaii Visitors Bureau (0181-941 4009).**
- **Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Hawaiian Archipelago*, by Isabella Bird (Picador, £13); *The Cruise of the Snark*, by Jack London (Kegan Paul, £14.95); *A Little Too Much is Enough*, by Kathleen Tyau (Women's Press, £6.99); *Moon Maui Handbook*, (£9.95); *Rough Guide: Big Island of Hawaii*, (£8.99).**


PLANET EARTH

Beyond the sunny beaches, the threatening beauty of a lava flow at Mauna Loa is one of Hawaii's great attractions

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Grog on the road to Hell

The plate of small white cubes looked like rather dull processed cheese. Nothing had prepared our British palates for the Icelandic delicacy of rotten shark.

A preliminary, disagreeable mouthful left our taste buds jangling. Too late we discovered that the vital part of the feast was a fiery Icelandic liquor called Brennevin, which we should have downed to take the taste away.

It never became clear why Icelanders choose to torture themselves with cubes of shark meat which have been buried in the ground for months to rot. On the other hand, Brennevin had useful warming qualities, which we tested to the full as we stood on the deck of a fishing boat braced against an icy wind.

Unfortunately, the whales which were the object of our boat trip apparently only break surface when it is calm and sunny. To miss such giants of the deep was frustrating, though we had been warned it was early in the season. However, we were soon distracted by being given fishing rods and instruction. In five minutes, several of our party had caught fish large enough for a good supper.

Whales are an important part of north Iceland's wildlife. This, and the lunar landscape of volcanic rock, waterfalls, steaming sulphuric earth and belching hot mud pools are the main attractions.

Hot springs at Hveravellir

Lake Myvatn lies on the western edge of a huge volcanic zone which bisects north-east Iceland. The lake is overshadowed by a 2,500-year-old black crater neatly striped with snow, but the earth is still seething with energy.

Half way around Myvatn, black volcanic rock suddenly gives way to a field of rocks hissing sulphur-smelling steam and boiling mud pools.

Volcanoes still erupt. But our attempts to reach a crater called Hell were foiled by bad weather.

Thick snow proved too much even for a four-wheel drive vehicle. The more intrepid among us set out to walk the rest of the way to Hell — another opportunity to test the warming qualities of the liquor bottle.

SARA MCCONNELL

The author travelled with Travelscene (0181-427 8800), which operates seven-night visits to Iceland, including Reykjavik, the second city of Akureyri, whale-watching and Lake Myvatn tours. Prices start at £754 per person.

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هكذا من الأصل

Wales: White-robed druids prepare for the Bala eisteddfod and, in the south, white cows graze on history

New tune for land of song

Wales is fashionable. After years of "Boyo" jokes and chapel-going caricature, the national press has discovered the Taffia — clever, sexy and Welsh — in the person of Ffion Jenkins, the fiancée of William Hague, the leader of the Conservative Party. Who would have expected to see the word *crachach* (elite or posh) in English newsprint?

The timing is excellent: the curious can visit the Royal National Eisteddfod next month and experience Welsh culture (amid some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain) first-hand. This year, it being the turn of North Wales, the venue is Bala.

Meanwhile, the people of Bala have taken up knitting. This ancient town, on the edge of Lake Bala in the Snowdonia National Park, is usually associated with more energetic activities such as hill-walking, rock-climbing, rafting, wind-surfing canoeing and abseiling. So why the outbreak of garter stitch? The answer is that the people of Bala have chosen wool as a theme for the local contribution to the festivities.

If needles no longer click in the cottages to produce tons of socks as they did 150 years ago, sheep still have a significant presence in the magnificent, alternately lush and rugged, *mountainous landscape*. An enormous "scarf" has been sewn into a strip long enough to encircle Llyn Tegid (as Lake Bala is known in Welsh), all 11 miles of it. A lake, incidentally, which contains a unique fish, the gwyniad, a survivor of the Ice Age.

Bala is centrally placed for a tour of the sights of Snowdonia even if you don't want to spend more than a day on the eisteddfod *maes*, or field. But, whether you speak Welsh or not, this is an arts festival like no other. The central pavilion holds an audience of about 3,500 for concerts, singing and dancing competitions and the main ceremonies — the crowning and chairing of winning poets and the presentation of the prose medal, before the assembled company of robed Welsh bards, the "Gorsedd".

Performing is important, but writing, especially poetry, is treated with ritual, almost religious, solemnity. "*A oes heddwch?*" shouts the archdruid to the four corners of the earth ("Is there peace?" intones your translator through the earphones). In the Middle Ages, a bard could win a place at his lord's table, hence the prize chair. This year's has been fashioned out of oak and sports dragons' claws.

Although the first recorded eisteddfod was held in the 12th century, the modern version is a 19th-century invention, complete with a horn of plenty, flowing robes (cloth of gold for the archdruid) and small girls doing a flower dance in the main ceremonies. In recent years, sports events, art exhibitions, a rock tent and stalls selling everything from Welsh honey to Celtic jewellery have caused the temporary township to spread. Soon, 27 acres just outside Bala will resemble an arty Bedouin encampment, echoing to folk tunes, bardic poetry and Welsh pop.

Bronze Age and Roman remains have been found on the spot, suggesting that this is not the first time the meadows have been churned up in the cause of ritual.

Travelling by road from London or South Wales, you arrive at Bala via the pretty route across central Wales — eventually. If you go by train, you may discover that Turkey would have been a quicker option. But persevere, it's worth it.

Once there, you can be as active or lazy as you choose. Bala is a renowned watersports centre and Snowdonia offers some ferociously challenging peaks — Snowdon itself and Cader Idris.

You can enjoy the mountains without donning a serious boot, however. Footpaths are clearly marked throughout the national park and the restored steam railway between slate-grey, damply gleaming Blaenau Ffestiniog and the seaside at Porthmadog at the crook of the Lleyn Peninsula, takes you painlessly above the tree-tops, an hour each way.

Every Saturday evening during the summer, the clattering journey becomes a gourmet experience known as "Steam and Cuisine". There are no kitchens aboard, but canapés (including salty, papery fried spinach) and a cold first course (smoked trout mousse with toasted brioche in our case) are served on departure from Porthmadog. Half an hour later, a speeding chef from Maes-y-Neuadd Hotel, Talsarnau, near Harlech, delivers a hot main course (we had baked lamb, mushroom and walnut pie) at a halt. Time to "stretch legs" is allowed at Blaenau Ffestiniog (there are no lavatories aboard) and, in the interim, a delicious cold pudding magically appears, followed by coffee as the train descends again to the coast. Steam enthusiasts tell you everything you didn't know you didn't know about trains.

It is as slick an organisational feat as you would expect of Maes-y-Neuadd. The chef there has an international reputation, but the hotel retains the characteristics of a Welsh farmhouse. There is a prevailing scent of wood fires and comforting baking.

Food and culture-crammed and stiff from sport, you might like to visit the gold mine at Dolgellau. There are no free samples and the workings are wet and icy (water is introduced to prevent the stone-dust disease silicosis in the five remaining miners) but outside is a fairy-tale landscape of waterfalls, rhododendrons, mountain streams and leafy hillsides. No sign remains of the 19th-century gold rush to the wild British west. However, slate is a more significant feature of the landscape these days. At Llechwedd, you can descend on a hair-raisingly steep railway to tour lumiere caverns to learn about Victorian slate extraction. But the stuff is all over the place, above ground too — sheets lean together into a makeshift pig sty and sharp shards decorate cottage walls. Slate roofs are a planning requirement throughout Snowdonia.

There is nothing greyer than Welsh slate glistening in Welsh rain. In contrast, the fantasy village of Portmeirion on the coast near Porthmadog is a sweetbox full of fondant colours. With its Italianate architecture set above a glorious swath of sand, and its gardens and woods full of rare blooms, this is a splendid place to while away an afternoon. Climb narrow stairways, visit the art gallery and the bell tower, and identify the flowers featured in the famous Portmeirion pottery (on sale at a price).

The cult television programme *The Prisoner* was filmed here, but the atmosphere is benignly eccentric rather than menacing. You can rent one of the cottages or stay at the beachside hotel, which must be fun, if you don't mind the tramp of a thousand tourist sandals on the cobbles outside your door.

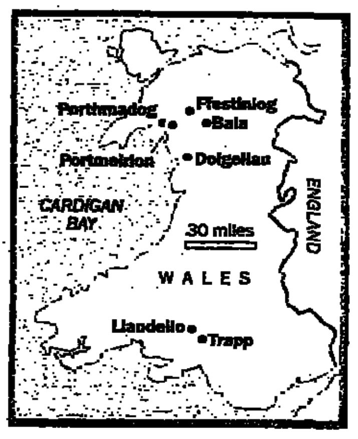
I prefer to get away from it all and ride on the hills watching the vistas slowly changing to the gentle clop of hoof on track. To be honest, my pony bolted, head up, tail flying, at 90mph. One vista after another. I should have soothed it by singing the Welsh national anthem.

I am sure that's what Ffion would have done.

HEATHER NEILL

DAVID WILLIAMS

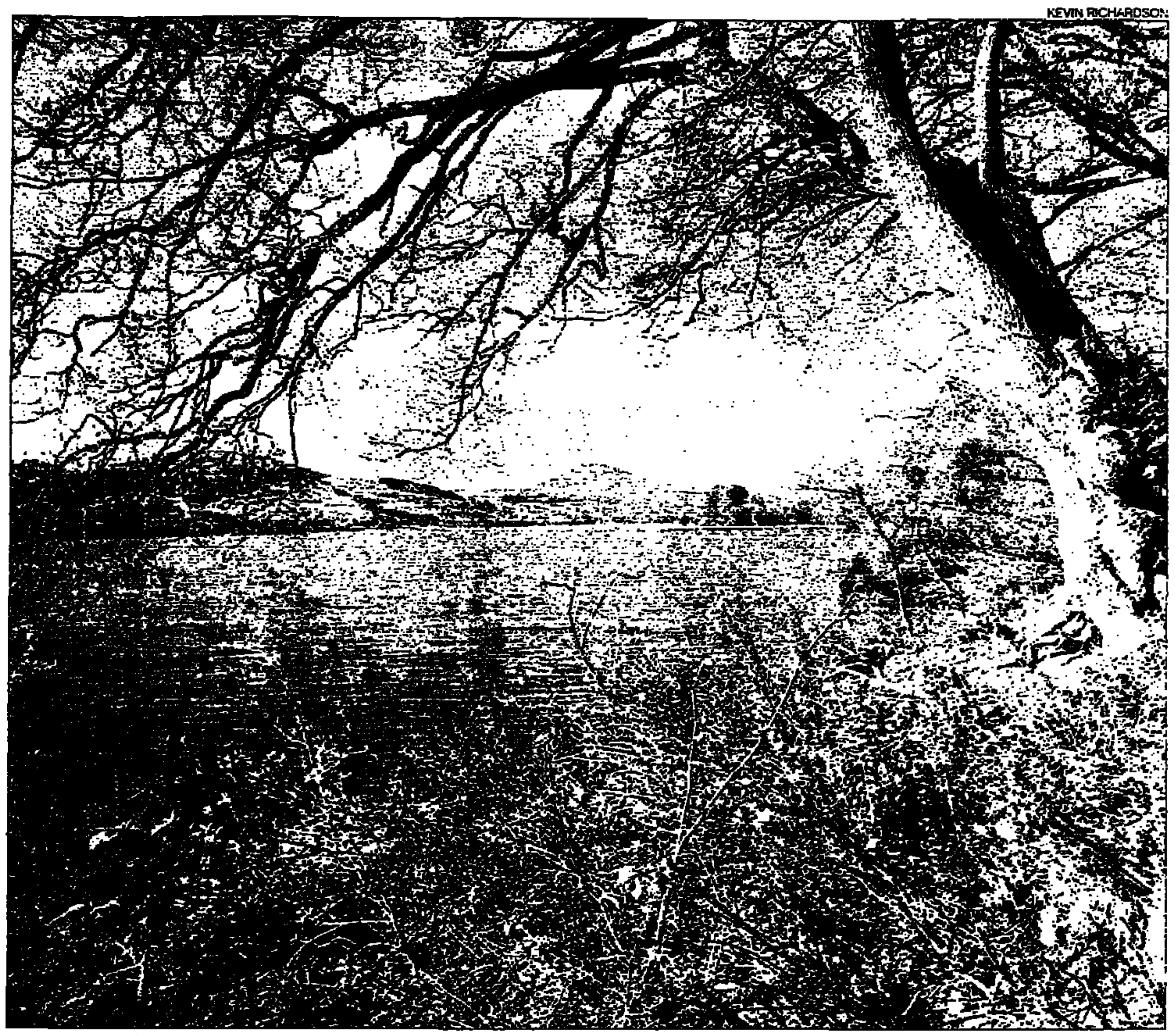
Welsh druids in solemn ceremony at the centuries-old eisteddfod



BALA FACT FILE

- **Royal National Eisteddfod, Bala, Aug 2-9 (01678 521477).**
- **Maes-y-Neuadd Hotel, Talsarnau (01766 780200): double room, breakfast and dinner from £162 per night.**
- **Guest houses by Lake Bala: Abercelyn (01678 521109), 15th-century rectory overlooking lake, B&B £18.50-£24.50. Plas Gower (01678 520431), B&B £17.50-£18.50. In Bala town: Plas Coch (01678 520309), B&B £20-£30. Praian (01678 520059), B&B under £15.**

KEVIN RICHARDSON



Around beautiful Lake Bala, in the Snowdonia National Park, visitors can go hill-walking, rock-climbing, rafting, wind-surfing and canoeing

Why the bull is king of the castle

The milk-white cattle of Dinefwr appeared as timeless as the soft rain that refreshed the River Tywi *as it snaked its way to Carmarthen*. The cows that graze the Dinefwr estate are believed to be descended from the same beasts that trudged across Europe with the first wave of migrating Celts. On wet days, visitors can admire these extraordinary animals through the great window of the café of the estate's recently restored Newton House. Welsh lore, white cows and cream of carrot soup go well together.

A few miles away, above the hamlet of Trapp, Carreg Cennen Castle glowered through the drizzle that swirled round its sheer 300ft-high granite crag. Appearing then disappearing by turn, the great stone mass assumed all manner of spectral shapes. "Welsh castle ruins look their best on days like these," said Bernard Llewellyn, a farmer and broadcaster who owns the prized monument with his wife, Margaret.

Carreg Cennen and Dinefwr Park, which is owned by the National Trust, are short drives from Llandeilo, a market town that stands high above the Tywi. Its narrow streets and Georgian shop fronts will see out the 20th century unscathed and untainted. Even Fanny's Restaurant and tearoom in King Street is pledged to uphold its *fine tradition of puddings and desserts*. For travellers who hanker after continuity, it is here in abundance near the end of the M4.

In Dinefwr's magnificent Capability Brown landscapes, hundreds of old anthills survive as stately homes of the insect world. From larger, man-made knolls, Brown's handsome beeches punch the Dyfed sky. Most of the trees are between 100 and 250 years old. Dinefwr's oaks grow to 300 years or more. Such venerable trees were held in reverence by the Welsh druids, as were the white cattle.

White Park cattle, as they became known, assumed such national importance that Winston Churchill had cows and bulls shipped to Texas with the aim of safeguarding the stock for all time. The American herd is now among the 400 White Parks that survive worldwide, says Brian Hancock, the warden at Dinefwr. "During the war, the family of Lord Dynevor are said to have considered it expedient to paint the cattle green to try to camouflage them."

White Parks have grazed their way through some important episodes of Welsh history. For example, the great prince Rhys Ap Gruffydd, an ancestor of Henry Tudor and sponsor of the first recorded eisteddfod in 1176, established his base in the "forest land of Tywi" in 1197. Dinefwr Castle, the ruins of which dominate the wooded bluff across the Tywi, was henceforth held to be the seat of the Kingdom of Deheubarth. The dynasty retained power until 1532 when one of its number was executed for allegedly plotting against Henry VII. Rehabilitated under the Stuarts, the family built the Newton House mansion in 1660.

It was Dinefwr's gorgeous rolling landscapes that won the acclaim of artists and writers. "It is a complete rotund of woods, shrubberies, hills, dales and sweeps," wrote a commentator in 1794. With more than 3,100 trees and shrubs, the park is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Successive barons remodelled the house, but not with the same universal approval. The addition of four turrets proved particularly contentious. A visiting vicar in 1803 thought the house "... a great disgrace to the scenery that surrounds it". As if driven by the sins of his fathers, the 4th Baron outrageously reworked the property into its present Gothic style.

In the 1970s, death duties forced the sale of what was the greatest of the South Wales estates. With the dispersal of the White Park herd, local people mourned the loss of *1,000 years of history. Thankfully*, the exile was short-lived. The National Trust acquired the estate, including the 100-acre deer park, in 1986 and bought the dilapidated Newton House in 1990. Two years later came the return of three calf-bearing white cows. "It gave the estate a living feel again," Mr Hancock says.

At Carreg Cennen, Bernard and Margaret Llewellyn also maintain a herd of White Parks. Here they graze a 200-acre farmstead with a range of other rare cattle and sheep. Through the drizzle, an invisible flock of Soay sheep called from the castle slopes like restless Iron Age spirits.

The splendid 60-mile views of the Black Mountains and beyond could only be imagined. "It really must have been a wonderful place for a hill fort because you can see so much around it," Mr Llewellyn says. "But it was also a stupid place to have a medieval castle, because there was nothing here to defend."

The castle did become involved in Owain Glendwr's fight for Welsh independence in the early 15th century when its walls were "... thrown down by rebels". At the end of the Wars of the Roses, 500 labourers were hired to smash the fortress to pieces. Carreg Cennen has remained one of the principality's best-loved ruins ever since.

The former cave dwelling that runs for 60 metres beneath the castle retains an equally magic hold. The story goes that inside its walls the Welsh warrior Owain of the Red Hand lies waiting to rise against the English.

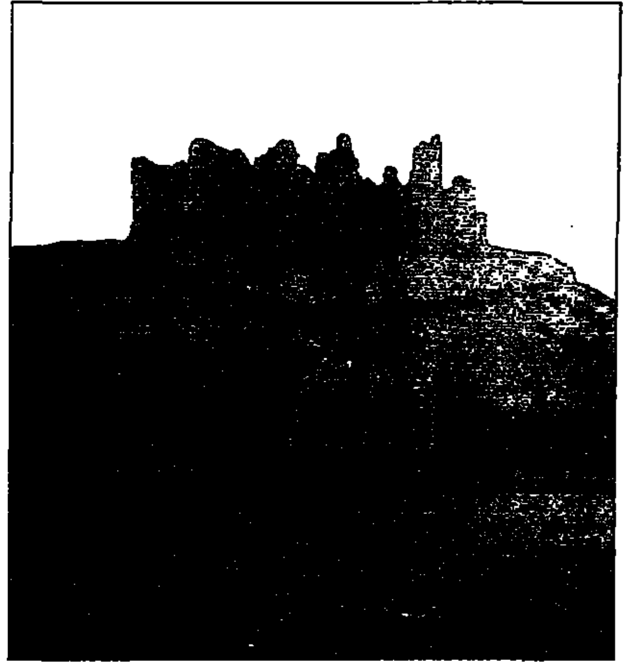
At Dinefwr, Albion the bull is already doing his patriotic duty. Two white calves arrived during April, with three more expected. Even on this bleak morning, the young animals gleamed like guardsmen's blanco. The mothers simply contented themselves against the vista of the River Tywi as it meandered away into the mist.

The warrior princes may be long gone from Dinefwr, but the present residents will still be there, probably till the cows come home.

BRIAN PEDLEY

Newton House, Dinefwr Park, and Albion the bull

COLLECTIONS/ROBERT HALLMAN



Carreg Cennan Castle, near Llandeilo, Dyfed

FACT FILE

- **The author travelled with the Wales Tourist Board, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY (01222 499909).**
- **Where to stay in LLandeilo: The Cawdor Arms Hotel and Restaurant (01558 823500): twin/double rooms at £56 a night. Weekend break, with dinner, £115 per person.**
- **Fanny's Restaurant, Llandeilo (01558 822908). Two-course lunch £7-£8. Open 10am-5pm, and Thur-Fri evenings. Three-course Sunday lunch £10.50. Closed Mon.**
- **Carreg Cennen Castle, Tir-y-Castell Farm, Trapp. (01558 823902).**
- **Newton House, Dinefwr Park, is open to the public Thur-Mon, 11am-5pm, Mar 27-Nov 2: £2.60, children £1.30.**

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

HOLDERBAT

(b) A type of bracket for fastening a pipe to a wall or other surface, consisting two semicircular parts that are clamped round the pipe and a projection on one of the parts that is built into the wall. "The holderbat has two portions, a circular ring, with a jointed or removable portion, and a tail which is cemented into the wall."

NEMESISM

(a) Feelings of frustration turned inward and expressed by aggression directed against the self. A psychological term. From the Greek *nemesis*. "The psychoanalyst might appropriately call the turning of aggression upon the individual's own self nemesism from the name of the Greek goddess of vengeance. Nemesism could then be thought of as the counterpart of narcism."

MIAI

(b) The first step in a Japanese arranged marriage whereby the prospective partners meet briefly in company with their families to decide if they are mutually acceptable. From the Japanese *mi* seeing + *ai* mutually. "I have a young friend who was married several months ago, who saw his wife for the first time at the miai several weeks before the wedding."

SOPH

(a) An abbreviation of *sophister* and *sophomore*. From the Greek *sophia* wisdom, hence *sophistikós* pretty damn full of wisdom. "I know it is your birthday, Sophie, but don't be such a soph about it."

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CRYSTAL ITALY

Travel also appears on pages 14, 21 & 22

هكذا من الأصل

AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Mangrove swamp magic

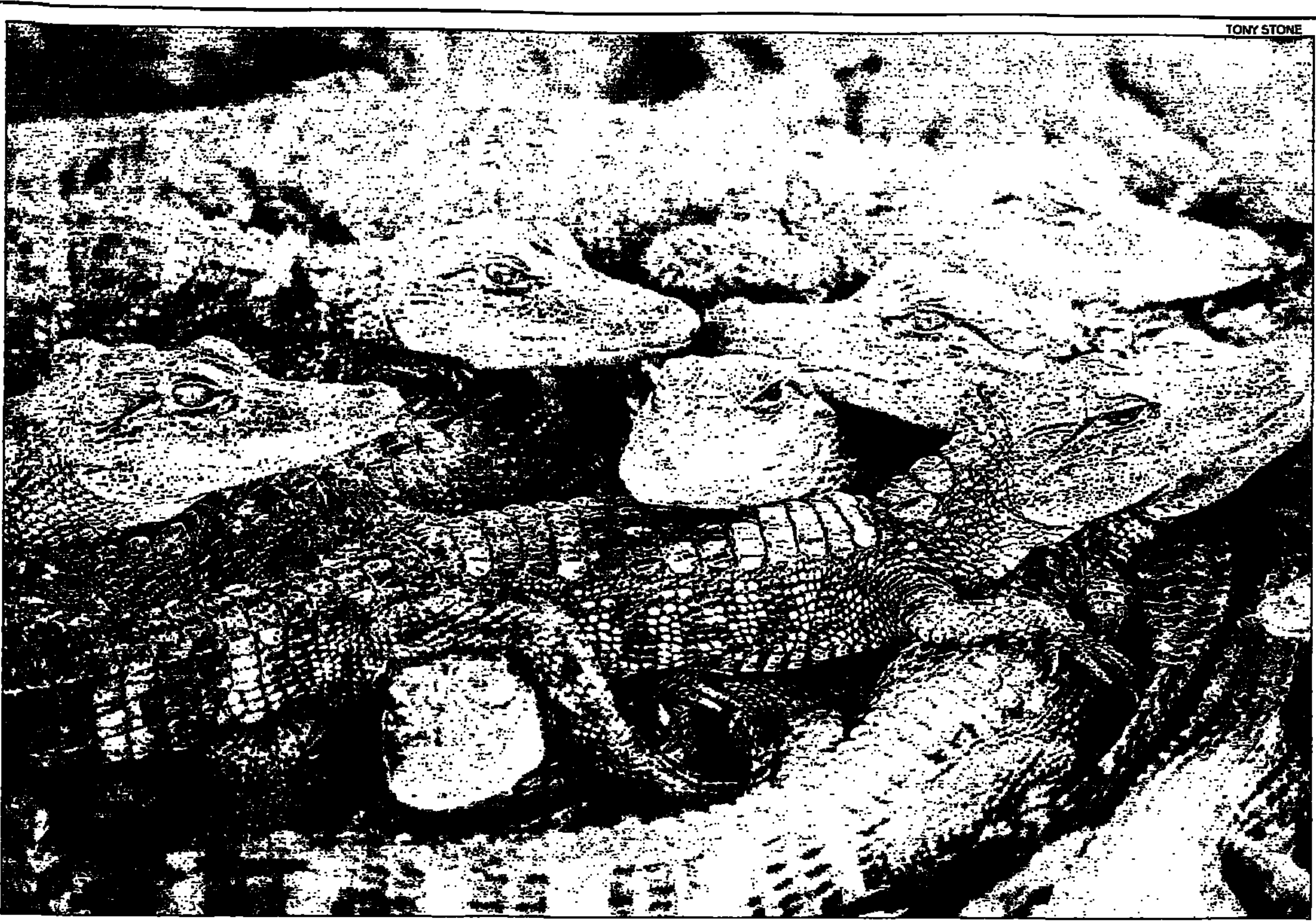
THE WRITER Marjory Stoneman Douglas described the Everglades as "a river of grass" in her long campaign to save the million and a half acres of untouched but fragile mangrove swamp and primeval wilderness.

Now a "River of Grass" tour, which explores this unique ecosystem, is among the 40 different tours organised for next year by the Field Studies Council (01743 850522), the environmental charity. This particular 11-day trip in February will cost £1,500, fully inclusive.

"Harberton to Harberton" is another unusual tour which begins in Harberton, Devon, and follows in the tracks of the Bridges family who pioneered much of the colonisation of southern Tierra del Fuego. The family finally settled in Estancia Harberton where Lucas Bridges wrote *Uttermost Part of the Earth*.

The flora and fauna of the dry Andes, sightings of the marine mammals of the Valdes Peninsula and the *guanacos* (wild llamas) and condors of the Torres del Paine are all on the three-week itinerary. The tour will cost about £2,800 fully inclusive.

■ A THREE-DAY Carte Musées ticket to all 58 museums on the Côte d'Azur, including the Chagall and Matisse collections in Nice, the Cocteau Museum in Menton, the perfume exhibition in Grasse and the Picasso Chapel in Vallauris will cost Fr70 (£7.20), a seven-day card Fr140 (£14.40). The cards are available from local tourist offices and come complete with a multilingual brochure.



TONY STONE

Cuddle up a little closer: Alligators in the Everglades, Florida; tours are being organised to explore a little of this vast acreage of primeval wilderness

Turning turtle

WITH THE dramatic increase of sun-and-sand tourism, the world population of marine turtles has crashed by as much as a horrifying 50 to 80 per cent since the 1950s. Four out of the seven species are now classified as endangered, two critically so.

Large hotel developments on the beaches where turtles make their nests, excessive noise and light, and the use of speedboats during the mating season are some of the worst culprits.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has launched a Turtle Alert campaign to encourage turtle-friendly policies. It also hopes to discourage tourists from visiting hatcheries where they are charged money to release the young turtles into the sea, where they will easily fall prey to predators.

If you would like to join the campaign, write to: WSPA (Turtle Campaign), 2 Langley Lane, London SW8 1TJ.

■ ACCORDING to a survey carried out for Visa, a quarter of those Britons going abroad on self-catering holidays from the Midlands pack a supply of cornflakes along with their swimsuits, shorts and suntan oil.
And that's not the end of it. Sixty per cent of holidaymakers take tea bags, 40 per cent of Geordies will not leave these shores without sausages and bacon, a third of travellers from Yorkshire would not be seen dead without bottles of tomato sauce and brown sauce, while a third of Midlanders pack a fortnight's supply of their favourite brand of baked beans with their flip flops and suntan lotion.
Jars of Marmite figure in the luggage of a quarter of West Country folk, yet despite this love for a British breakfast, half those questioned had not had a holiday in the United Kingdom for five years.

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Arctic stars

AN UNUSUAL "Northern Lights" holiday is being organised by Arctic Experience (01737 218801). It offers the chance to study the aurora borealis at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, which is based on the shores of Canada's Hudson Bay, and observing the sky when it will be at its most spectacular.

A variety of other northern activities — such as dog sledging, igloo building and snowcat driving — will offer plenty of light relief.

The eight-night trip in November will cost £1,649 for flights, accommodation, most meals and lectures.

■ A WINE TOUR brochure from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461) offers a single night in the Carnuntum Wine Region costing £35 to seven nights for the Vinarium Festival in Baden, near Vienna, for £345. This tour includes four-star half-board accommodation in Baden, and tastings in medieval vaulted wine cellars.

Elephant tour

TO COINCIDE with Visit Kerala Year in 1998, Western and Oriental (0171-221 8677) is organising two new tours to the southern Indian state.

On a special "Elephant Festival" tour next February, led by elephant expert and enthusiast Pepita Seth, holidaymakers can join in temple festivities with their processions of great "tuskers", watch elephants at work in the timber yards and also in the wild in the Nagarhole National Park. The cost is £1,980 for flights and full board.

An independent 13-day journey through Kerala costing £1,995 includes the old British hill station of Munmar, a stay in a private home in the backwaters and a rice barge cruise.

In the swim

IF YOU cannot swim and don't like to admit it, you might like to follow the example of Shirley Bassey, Aristotle Onassis, Jean-Paul Belmondo, even racing commentator Peter O'Sullevan and former defence secretary Sir John Nott. They have all benefited from the expertise of Pierre Gruneberg, the swimming instructor from the Grand Hotel at Cap Ferrat in the south of France. He will be holding swimming clinics in this country at Hollington House Hotel (01635 255100) near Newbury in November.

His technique for curing phobias includes dunking his pupils' heads in transparent salad bowls of water to monitor their breathing before they enter the pool. Group lessons cost £15, individual sessions £40.

Opera notes

FOLLOWING the two-year closure of the Opera House in Covent Garden, London, Travel for the Arts (0171-483 4466) is offering alternative venues in Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna, Paris and New York.

In Vienna there is a choice of old favourites which includes *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *Die Walküre* and *La Bohème*, plus *Wozzeck* (Berg), *Le Prophète* (Meyerbeer) and *Gesualdo* (Schnittke). The price for return flights, three nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast, and one opera ticket costs from £440. At the Met in New York, a fairly traditional choice includes *Carmen*, *Peter Grimes* and *Lohengrin*. The price, from £698, includes the round trip, four nights' accommodation and one opera ticket.

■ "I PROMISE a warm welcome" is the message that French Tourist Offices, hotels and other organisations displaying the smiling tricolour "bonjour" promise the 60 million people who visit France each year. It also applies to bus conductors, waiters and anyone else who comes into contact with foreign visitors. The warm welcome will, if the campaign succeeds, be there to greet visitors "at every moment, at any time of day and night, and at any time of the year". I wonder if they will succeed with those public relations men on wheels, the Paris taxi drivers. Their form of welcome, when asked to do a short trip from one of the main Paris airports, is world famous.

Wedding bells

SLEIGH RIDES in the snow and all the trimmings of a real white wedding can be arranged in American and Canadian resorts by Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201). The company will organise the formalities, witnesses and reception. Average cost for the ceremony and certificate is $300 (£190).

A week in the historic Victorian former mining town of Telluride in Colorado, chosen by Butch Cassidy and Co for their first bank robbery, costs £799-£925 for flights and B&B for a week.

If you prefer to get married in Sun Valley in Idaho where Judy Garland, Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe used to be regulars, it will cost you from £819 for a week, £1,099 for two weeks, plus the extras incurred for the wedding itself.

DONALD MCGILL

English at play: "I do things here you'd never see me do at home" says the McGill postcard

Beside the seaside

■ THE ENGLISH Tourist Board has set up a hotline number for people thinking of taking a seaside break in England this summer.

The ETB wants to entice younger generations of holidaymakers, while encouraging their parents to stay at home after years of holidaying abroad. Two good summers helped swell stay-at-home seaside tourist numbers to 18.7 million last year.

Tim Barlett, ETB chief executive, said: "The last couple of summers have had excellent weather, enticing people to head for the coast. We hope they liked what they saw and will return this year."

Updated information on facilities and entertainment at 42 resorts is available on the ETB hotline, 01271 336019.

■ THE GROWTH in cruising is outstripping that of long-haul holidays, according to a report from the Passenger Shipping Association.

The number of Britons taking a cruise grew by 21.9 per cent last year, compared with 12.5 per cent for long-haul.

The Mediterranean is the favoured cruise destination, followed by the Caribbean.

■ PRAGUE has overtaken perennial city-break favourites such as Venice, Florence and Madrid, according to the latest figures from tour operator Travelscene (see box below). The emergence of Dublin and Lille is further evidence of how weekenders are looking for new cities, said sales director John Harding. "In the 1980s, Paris and Amsterdam accounted for the majority of bookings. While still the two most popular, people are now looking further afield."

TRAVEL NEWS

■ THE FASHION for fossil hunting helped Compton Bay outstrip rival beaches on the Isle of Wight in a new survey by island ferry operator, Wightlink. The bay, where dinosaur remains were recently found, was topped only by Sandown in the poll of more than 1,000 holidaymakers. But it beat better-known beaches including Shanklin, Ryde and Ventnor.

While the island's beaches were the most important part of a holiday for a quarter of those questioned, the villages and walking topped the poll.

■ THE RESURGENCE of France continues to pick up pace with record numbers of ferry passengers travelling through Dover in the first half of the year. The port reported car and passenger figures both up 26 per cent by the end of June, to 1.52 million and 9.78 million respectively.

The return to full capacity of Le Shuttle following the Channel Tunnel blaze was expected to slow down the growth in ferry traffic. But figures for June showed Dover passengers up by a sixth on the same month last year and car numbers up by a quarter.

The Dover-Calais ferry route, coupled with Le Shuttle through the Tunnel, account for three-quarters of all Britons heading for France.

The market's robust health will undoubtedly be sustained with the French franc hitting ten to the pound this month for the first time since 1992. A survey of tour operators selling France showed that the gite and villa market is demonstrating the strongest recovery, with sales up 25 per cent year-on-year.

TOP **CITIES**

Top ten city breaks for 1997 (1987 in brackets):

1 Paris (1)
2 Amsterdam (2)
3 Bruges (-)
4 Brussels (-)
5 Barcelona (-)
6 Rome (5)
7 Prague (-)
8 Venice (3)
9 Madrid (6)
10 Dublin (-)

Source: Travelscene

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ferry left me high and dry

From Mrs E. Wathan, Longlevens, Gloucester:

Before Christmas, we booked through VFB Holidays to travel by ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe with Stena Line, departing on August 22 at 1pm. We chose this time because we are taking elderly parents and travelling from South Wales.

But early in the new year we were notified that we would have to leave Newhaven at 10.45am. We then received a letter to say our timetable had changed again. We could pay an extra £40 to use the Lynx service departing at a convenient time, or we would have to catch the 8.45am ferry, which would mean leaving Wales at 4am. A derisory £5 voucher was offered to us.

As the early start was totally unacceptable with elderly parents, we reluctantly paid the £40 Lynx supplement.

☐ A spokesman for Stena Line commented: We changed the craft on the route and invested in faster craft to offer more crossings, six instead of four, with some sailings twice as fast. The customer is still able to travel at 1pm but we have written and asked her to talk to us.

From Brian Dennett, Frome, Somerset:

Dr Dunn's article 'How our weekend was stolen in the night' (Weekend, June 28) contained several pieces of advice for independent travellers. However, I would take issue with his comment that 0800 numbers to rescue and insurance services are impossible to phone from abroad. I made several 0800 calls to the UK from public callphones on two campsites in France and in two towns — the system worked perfectly each time.

● *We welcome letters on holiday travel. Write to: Letters, Travel Department,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, or fax 0171-782 5124.*

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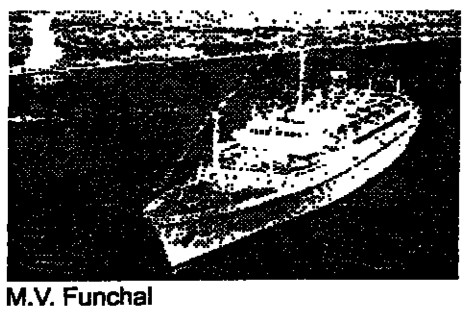

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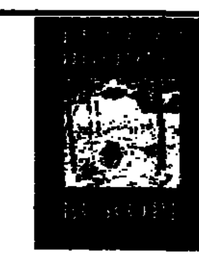

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ALTHOUGH Kasparov secured first prize in the elite tournament at Novgorod, *thus re-establishing his* supremacy over opponents of the flesh-and-blood variety, he did suffer the misfortune that his sole loss was regarded as the most brilliant game played in the event. It is an essential component of Kasparov's great strength that he pushes his possibilities to the limit, both with Black and White. Since White has the initiative as his birthright, playing at all costs for the win as Black necessarily runs immense risks. When a crash comes, it can be spectacular, as this fine game demonstrates.

White: Vladimir Kramnik; Black: Garry Kasparov
Novgorod 1997
King's Indian Defence

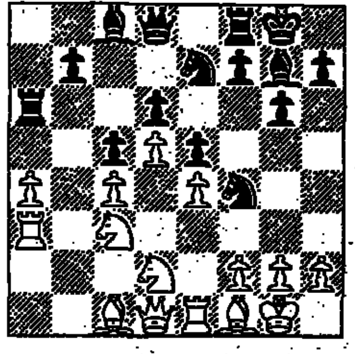
1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6
5 d4 0-0 6 Be2 e5
7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7
9 b4

The King's Indian is Kasparov's favourite defence against queenside openings. The champion wins a high percentage of the time with it, but there are strategic disadvantages, so it must be considered one of Black's more risky options.

9 ... Nh5 10 Re1 Nf4
11 Bf1 a5 12 bxa5 Rxa5
13 Nd2 c5

To counter the long-term threat of a4, Ba3 and c5 by White.

14 a4 Ra6 15 Ra3



This is a novelty. The game Epishin-Ye, Geneva 1997, saw instead 15 Nb3. A deep point of White's rook move is that it can swing directly across to the kingside in later play.

15 ... g5 16 g3

Black is already *committed to* sacrificing a pawn since 16 ... Nfg6 17 Qh5 leaves Black very passive.

16 ... Nh3+ 17 Bxh3 Bxh3
18 Qh5 Qd7 19 Qxg5 h6
20 Qe3 f5 21 Qe2 f4
22 Nb5 Kh7

Black appears to be forcing matters on the kingside, in return for his lost pawn, but White's position is full of resource.

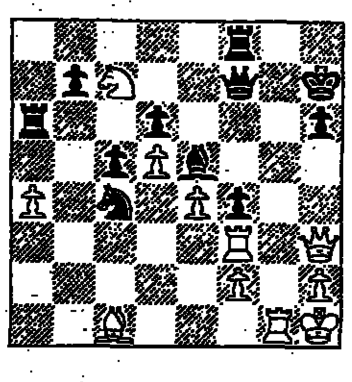
23 gxf4

Most players would quail at the thought of opening up their king like this against Kasparov while simultaneously freeing the a1-h8 diagonal for Black's king's bishop. However, Kramnik has seen that the exposed g-file is (contrary to immediate appearances) in fact a possible avenue for White's *own* attack.

23 ... exf4 24 Kh1 Bg4
25 Nf3 Ng6 26 Rg1 Bxf3+
27 Qxf3 Ne5 28 Qh5 Qf7

If 28 ... Nxc4 29 Qg6+.

29 Qh3 Nxc4 30 Rf3 Be5
31 Nc7



A brilliant diversion consummating the theme of White's strategy, namely that his far-flung queenside forces exert a decisive influence on the other side of the board.

31 ... Rxa4

31 ... Qxc7 falls spectacularly to 32 Qxh6+! Kxh6 33 Rh3 mate.

32 Bxf4 Black resigns

After 32 ... Bxf4 33 Ne6 Rg8 34 Rxg8 Qxg8 35 Qf5+ Kh8 36 Qf6+ Kh7 37 Nf8+ wins.

WINNING MOVE

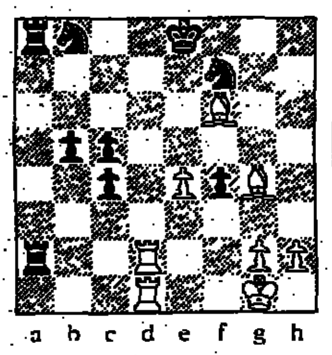
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Domuls - Poliakov, Latvia 1980.

Black's monstrous armada of pawns on the queenside will win the game for him unless White acts quickly. What is his best move?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual *dinner* at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bc6
Last week's winner: A Jefferson, Hebron Rd, Stokesley, Cleveland.



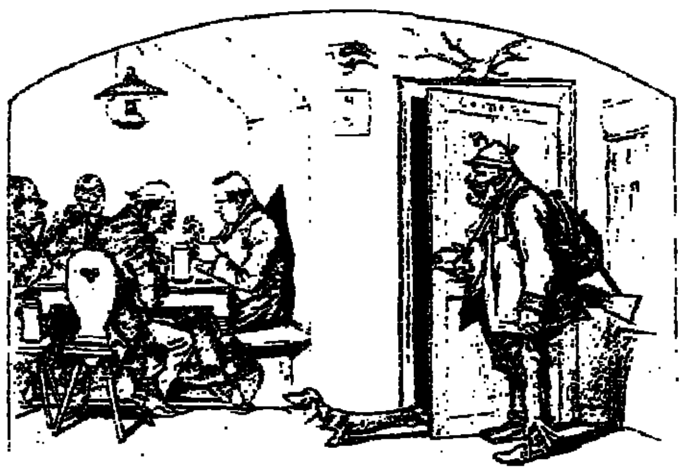
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 61, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 23.



A [illegible] Dog.—"I say, Mr. Forester, I don't like that sort of dog this cold weather!" "Why not?" "He keeps the door open such a long time coming in. The draught's enough to kill one!"

"It really isn't a bad dream. We have been here before."

This cartoon also appeared some weeks ago. Our apologies

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mark Sage of Eastbourne, Sussex

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOLDERBAT
a. South African fruit bat
b. A bracket
c. A left-handed table tennis bat

NEMESISM
a. Self-aggression
b. A perennial herb
c. Fatalistic

MIAI
a. A Japanese cat
b. *Courting ritual*
c. A Hawaiian skirt

SOPH
a. A sophister
b. Adder's eggs
c. A plumber's plunger

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE NUMBER one seed in the trials to determine who should represent the USA in the 1997 Bermuda Bowl (the World Team Championship) was Seymon Deutsch's team (Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Chip Martel and Lew Stansby). In the final they beat the second seeds, current world champions Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bobs Hamman and Wolff.

Zia Mahmood put one over on Wolff on this hand from the trials final:

Dealer West Game all IMPs

North: ♠J ♥Q5 ♦KQ8763 ♣A1085
West: ♠K8742 ♥J10863 ♦4 ♣32
East: ♠A93 ♥94 ♦A1052 ♣Q976
South: ♠Q1065 ♥AK72 ♦J9 ♣KJ4

W	N	E	S
Pass	1D	Pass	1H
Pass	2D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: the two of spades

The two of spades was ostensibly *fourth best. East took the ace of* spades and returned the nine. Thinking the spades were 4-4, Wolff put on the queen. Zia ducked, so when East got in with the ace of diamonds the defence took three more spade tricks.

To cater for spades being 5-3, and East holding the diamond entry, Wolff could have ducked East's nine to cut communication between East and West. On the other hand, had East held precisely A98 or A97 in spades, and West the ace of diamonds, playing the queen at trick two would have been necessary to block the suit.

Suppose declarer does duck the nine of spades, and the defenders play two more rounds. Declarer knocks out the ace of diamonds, finding the diamonds 4-1, and at this point has eight tricks: one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. He will need to find *the club queen in an ending of this* sort:

North: ♠— ♥5 ♦7 ♣A108
West: ♠4 ♥J10 ♦— ♣32
East: ♠— ♥9 ♦10 ♣Q97
South: ♠— ♥AK ♦— ♣KJ4

The lead is in dummy and declarer needs the rest of the tricks. He plays off his top hearts discarding a club from dummy, and East is squeezed, forced to discard his master diamond or unguard the *queen of clubs. Declarer would* also succeed if West started with queen-doubleton of clubs. In that case, when East follows with low clubs at tricks eleven and twelve, declarer will reject the finesse knowng East's last card is a diamond. That is known as a "show-up" squeeze.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

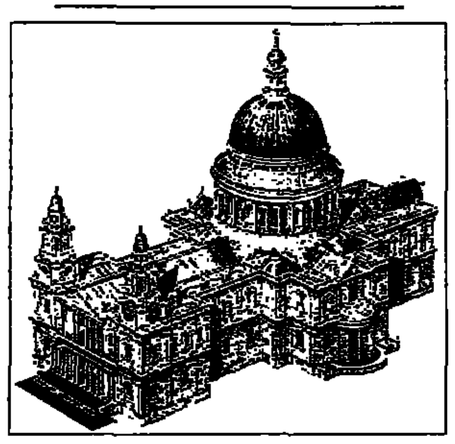
LAND LEVELS around the Thames estuary are falling at the rate of 8mm a year, and by 2100 large parts of England's east coast could be submerged. The sinking is caused by rising sea levels and "a huge geological process", which means Britain is gradually being titled west to east. Scientists now keep track of the sinking of the city with satellite receivers placed along the Thames, between Richmond and Southend. This is the kind of detail you'll find throughout **AA Virtual London.**

The Windows CD-Rom is an agreeable exploration of London, *covering everything from its founding* by the Romans in AD 43 to the city's plans for the millennium. The capital's history and culture, the great and the good are all covered in a variety of ways — with video and audio clips, photomontages, colour slides and cut-aways. Included in the latter are St Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament and the Lloyd's Building. Each cut-away has an illustration of the outside of the building which, when clicked, reveals further detail, such as the whispering gallery *inside the dome of St Paul's.*

But the best feature of AA Virtual London is the 360 degree photographic panoramas. Click and drag the cursor to sweep around the panorama in a full circle, or to look up and down. You can also zoom into each picture to take a closer look. As you move around the scenes they seem to come to life — the pigeons in Trafalgar Square, for example, appear to move.

The starting point of any interactive exploration is in the Curiosity Shop, where the bric-a-brac is stacked high with "hot spots" to whisk you away in any direction you *choose. The city is neatly* carved up into 16 main areas, and you can also build up a personal record of your tours by clicking on pictures to store snapshots in a planner. Text notes can also be added.

Like London itself, this title is vibrant and energetic. Its only obvious drawbacks are some fairly ham-fisted navigation arrangements — retracing steps can be a clumsy affair and the index pages are hardly all-encompassing — and the inability to turn down or, better *still, off the bland ethereal music.* Still, AA Virtual London does skilfully manage to appeal to both those living in London as well as visitors, real or virtual. The AA is now working on the next title in the series, Paris.



Explore behind the scenes at St Paul's Cathedral in AA Virtual London

Also included in AA Virtual London is the London Quest, a modest test of your newfound knowledge, based on the title's 16 *zones: "Who made a decree protecting the Tower ravens?"* (Charles II) "Who can speak at Speakers' Corner?" (Anyone) "Where is Noel Coward's dressing gown *kept?"* (Theatre Museum) "Who directed the first major British 'talkie'?" (Alfred Hitchcock) "What is inside the 1878 time capsule beneath Cleopatra's Needle?" (Cigars, pipes and photos of pretty women) "Of whose grand plan for London does Piccadilly Circus form a part?" (John Nash).

Incidentally, not far from Piccadilly Circus is Segaworld, the mecca for the games-player with deep *pockets. It has just launched its* latest rumbling interactive video game, **Lost World 3D.** The action, based on Steven Spielberg's film *Lost World*, the sequel to *Jurassic Park*, has been designed by Dreamworks and costs £1 a go. As one of the rescue team, your mission is to dodge the rampaging dinosaurs and save the scientists.

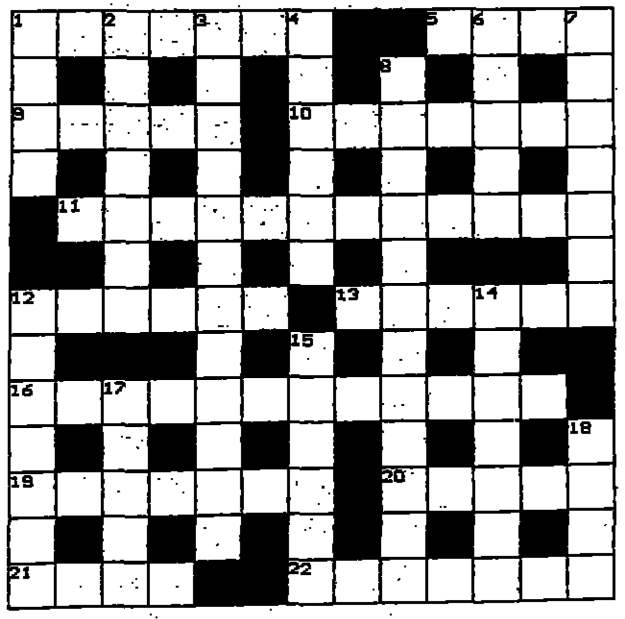
Now a reminder that Cyberspace Thirty-Three offers 12-months' **free Direct Connection Internet accounts** to a dozen readers. Not only *will you get on-line with an e-mail* address, the memberships also allow you to make a splash on the Internet by publishing your own home pages. Direct Connection's team will provide full *hands-on* support to help you design, put together and administer your site. A full year's subscription to Direct Connection, which automatically includes back-up for would-be home page publishers, ordinarily costs £170.

The competition is open to all, acting on your own or as part of a group seeking to run a joint effort. Just explain in 150 words why your Web-site would be head and shoulders above the rest. It should serve some kind of useful purpose, if only *to amuse.*

Send your entry, together with your name, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Thirty-Three, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The closing date is Tuesday, July 29. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into any additional correspondence.

This week's Top Tip comes from Eleanor Maurice of Macclesfield, Cheshire: "Make your own mouse *mat for free by ordering a complete* new bathroom and cutting up a piece of left-over linoleum to size."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1150

ACROSS
1 Goods transporter (7)
5 Voucher: young girl (4)
9 Main force (of blow) (5)
10 Fine weather timepiece (7)
11 (US) Highest judicial body (7,5)
12 Massage; masseur (6)
13 Awkwardly small to handle (6)
16 Tower entrance from Thames (8,4)
19 Deathless (7)
20 African ruminant (5)
21 Ark builder (4)
22 Mysterious; like *The Times* Crossword (7)

DOWN
1 A tramp (4)
2 First World Cup winners (soccer) (7)
3 Non-continuous (12)
4 Carry on; US CV (6)
6 17-syllable Jap. verse (5)
7 *War and Peace* author (7)
8 Derogatory ad (8,4)
12 Example; design (7)
14 Take away from (7)
15 Prank; gambol (6)
17 Combat, show ring (5)
18 With copper, makes brass (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1149
ACROSS: 1 Upkeep 5 Blonde 8 Snag 9 Portland 10 Duncan 12 Crib 15 Chateaubriand 16 Writ 17 Deduce 19 Badinage 21 Fool 22 Spread 23 Thrash
DOWN: 2 Pen-pusher 3 Egg 4 Popinjay 5 Burn 6 Only child 7 Dan 11 Cut it fine 13 Innocuous 14 Obedient 18 Bard 20 Alp 21 Fur

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TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books 10,11,12,13 £4.50 each. The Times Concise - Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99. The Times Two - Book 6 £3.50. The Times Jumbo (Cryptic) - Book 3 £5.99. DICTIONARIES: Collins £25, Chambers £25 (both on IBM CD-ROM £29.99). Synonyms and Antonyms £7.99, Crossword Solvers' £11.99, Roget's Thesaurus £6.99 (Pb),£14.99(Hb). Difficult Words £10.99. English Idioms £6.99. Literary Terms £12. Astronomy £9.99. ALSO Crossword Manual £10.99. Crossword Completer £13.99, Grammar and Usage £13.99.

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 35 diskette series 60 crosswords each, solo/team facility and optional HELP levels. Includes: Times Crosswords (19 • Omnibus) & 2 (2 - 2). The Times Concise (4) The Times Two (6) — The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87 (1). (Brackets denote number of diskettes)

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3419: Mel, but not Kim by Mersault

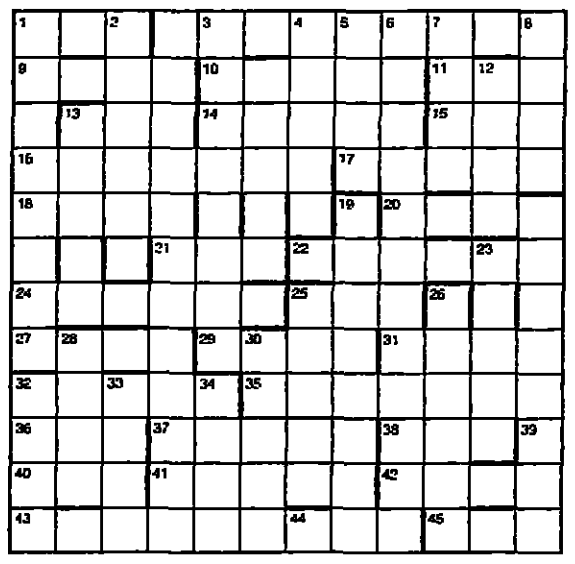
ASTERISKED clues contain a definition of the word whose length appears in brackets and a subsidiary indication of its mutilated form which is the light. The letters removed form one ingredient of the unclued lights, in two senses.

This is confirmed by part of a nursery rhyme to be entered beneath the grid at (i) and the person at (ii). The subsidiary indications in eighteen clues produce a superfluous letter; read in clue order, these letters give the original full name of (ii), discovered in a later, more familiar guise when one part of the theme is replaced by the source of another.

Remaining clues are normal. One unclued light consists of three words; one clued light is a foreign name, one an abbreviation. Ignore accents.

ACROSS
1 Express hostility towards chap — an ignoramus, not Kelvin (3)
9 Rubber band may hold it in place, however (4)
10 Wend? That is to say, head (5)
*11 Mixture of two parts tritium and one part phosphorus? (10)
13 Greek character makes settlement with note (3)
14 She's in the Post Office, see. Nell'Ufficio Postale, more likely (5)
15 Expression of contempt for archetypal monomaniac (3)
16 *Cutting down tree, almost getting back before dark* (7)
17 Road Traffic Acts (5)
18 Skirting around Sandy's lover at party (4)
20 When domestic animal is returned to tribesman (4)
21 Scots are frightened, but unite in faith (3)
22 Concern about mortgage trap (6)
24 Vote of approval for East German eight — they race across the water (6)
25 Standard disease of cattle (3)
27 Swindle and beat up clumsy old bird (4)
29 One growing used to the surroundings — English vulgarian ... (4)
31 ... from Scottish resort (4)
32 Intelligent marine (5)
35 Girl in topless dress — it's worn for dirty work! (7)
36 Queen and Government get work done (3)
37 At Gordonstoun, we subject English to dreary chill (5)
38 Paddy might be described as ... reserved (3)
*39 One gram (5)
*40 In Austria, they all dance (9)
*41 Heartless monster gets new name, having married one surprisingly noble and rational (9)
42 Boat's state leads to intense criticism (4)
43 Turned up about seven to spoil reveille (9)
45 Roughness on the surface — a wrinkle (3)

DOWN
*1 Nature of awkward youth led astray by deb outside (15)
2 Where back might be put up by pretentiousness (6)
3 Draw fluid out of a cavity when operating illegally (8)
4 Say Olive turned up for funeral oration (5)
5 Sing an accompaniment repeating the same note (4)
*6 Sue and Vera fixed up spiky structures to keep off the horses (14)
*7 Gossip about French film-maker (8)
8 Doing menial work, they earn very little — hitherto, a pound (4)
12 They express contempt for their enemies, we hear (4)
13 Pasture-land in Panama — *it dries up in hot weather* (5)
19 Judge is surrounded by female suspects (8)
23 Tree expert in the country (5)
25 Governor imprisons six — it adds fuel to the flames (5)
26 Quarrel with brother about Sabbath (6)
28 Casual pairings at the end of Major Barbara (4)
30 Blimey, Eric Cantona's stripped off, and it's really horny (5)
32 Man with plough — rude fellow (4)
*33 Italy captivated old aristocrat (7)
34 It calls for effort, that quiz (4)
*44 Stokes Thomas the Tank Engine and friends? (9)



(i) (5,3,5,3,3,6,4,5,4,6,5,3,4,2; one apostrophe)

....

....

(ii) (3,6)

....

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3419
in association with Waterstone's

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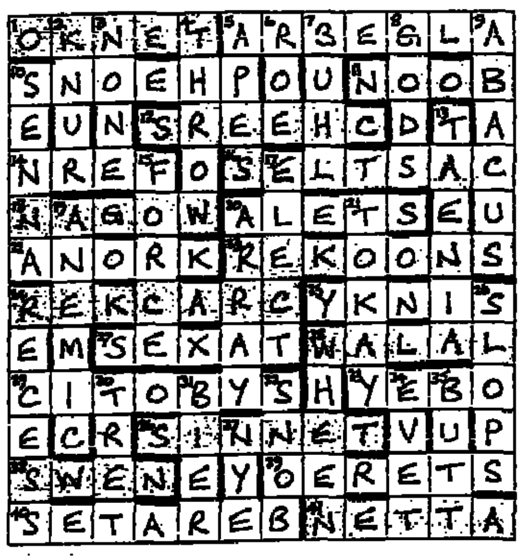
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3419, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, July 31.



O	K	N	E	T	A	R	B	E	G	L	A
S	N	O	E	H	P	O	U	N	O	O	B
E	U	N	S	R	E	E	H	C	D	T	A
N	R	E	F	O	S	E	L	T	S	A	C
N	A	G	O	W	A	L	E	T	S	E	U
A	N	O	R	K	R	E	K	O	O	N	S
K	E	K	C	A	R	C	Y	K	N	I	S
E	M	S	E	X	A	T	W	A	L	A	L
C	I	T	O	B	Y	S	H	Y	E	B	O
E	C	R	S	I	N	N	E	T	V	U	P
S	W	E	N	E	Y	O	E	R	E	T	S
S	E	T	A	R	E	B	N	E	T	T	A

Solution to No 3416: Playback by Loda

Video Plus ® numbers are supplied by the atomic numbers of chemical elements, as listed (page 2060) in *Chambers*.

All across answers/numbers are reversed (ie played back) to form the light/code. Initial letters and redundant words in down clues spell out: THE WEATHER (ref: the elements) and BEATING RETREAT thereby providing the decoding clue.

The winner is F. Dent of Hollywood, Birmingham.

The five runners-up are: John Grimshaw of London; Iain and Mary Fisher of Scunthorpe; Janet Ferris of Leeds; Stephen Field of London SE1 and Clive Weatherley of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

W

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THE TIMES

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ARTY late 30s prof lady seeks gentleman interested in theatre & sport & keeping fit for friendship. I'm 5'2", blonde, enjoys keeping fit, wining, dining, cinema & theatre. Essex girl. Photo please. Box 6326 ✉

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BEAUTY & brains Stunning blonde, N/S, mid 30s, slim grad, cultured, sporty (tennis, sailing) outgoing WLTM fit, sincere romantic counterpart with trad values (GSOH) for good/bad times in a committed relationship. London/HC. Box 6371 ✉

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BLOND Beauty living in Bucks/Berks, 5'6", slim but curvy, GSOH, early 40's would like to meet tall handsome man, around same age or older who is funny, caring and truthful. A tall order - can you handle it? Please Reply to Box No 6382 ✉

BLUE-EYED, 5'2", attractive 32 yr old publisher, based East Midlands seeks professional male up to 45 with whom I can enjoy the finer things in life. If you feel you can handle a strong minded, independent female who enjoys music, cycling, wind surfing etc. with a great SOH, contact me. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 6424 ✉

CULTURE vulture, N/S sought by mature vulturess, London based Reply to Box No 6325 ✉

EDUCATED, attractive nurse (58) WLTM a gentleman living in a country house in W Sussex/New Forest. Own interests include all aspects of country life, theatre, English Heritage, good conversation & companionship. Reply to Box No 6313 ✉

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GOLF, concerts, theatre, bridge, walking. Are you a tall, competent partner, a N/S happy companion, a 50ish sincere friend willing to share these and other interests with an attractive young-looking successful lady who is content with life but alone at the end of the day. A photo please if all interests and attributes apply!. S. Glos/Bristol. Reply to Box No 6411 ✉

GOOD-LOOKING, unconventional, stylish blonde, intelligent, slim, successful and emotionally strong woman with warmth, sensitivity and femininity (and minor imperfections!) WLTM youthful, happy, handsome man, open minded and at ease with himself with whom to laugh, debate and indulge, expend energy, exchange TLC & (mild) insults, tax the imagination and discover the new. Please also be child- friendly, around 40, solvent and in the N West. Photo/letter please Bx 6257 ✉

HAPPY, attractive, prof lady, late 40s, WLTM intelligent, outgoing GSOH n/s man with zest for life to share fun/laughter. Aberdeen/will travel Bx 6269 ☎ ✉

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ITALIAN, petite, very loyal, pleasant lady, spontaneous, solvent, cultured WLTM very professional gentleman 40-45, slim for permanent relationship. S.W.London/ Surrey/Berks. Please Reply to Box No 6392 ☎ ✉

LADY (Yorkshire based) 50's, 5'6, slim, fair, WLTM gentleman recently retired or semi-retired who now has time to linger over the lovely things in life. Photo please to Box 6388 ✉

SAVE this attractive, slim, fun-loving blonde (Berks based), 39, from becoming a workaholic. She enjoys sports (incl. sailing), outdoors, travel etc. WLTM a man (36-48) to share the good & bad times with. Photo please to Box No 6310 ☎ ✉

SLIM, gentle, caring, attractive educated N/S Asian lady (Middlesex based) WLTM professional N/S gentleman, any nationality, 39-43 for genuine & lasting relationship. Please Reply with photo to Box 6335 ☎ ✉

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STYLISH attractive lady of means, homes England and South of France, WLTM mature gentleman of good standing, age unimportant. Please Reply with photo to Box no 6425 ✉

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TWO articulate, attractive, slim, sociable, single solvent brunettes WLTM 2 personable men 35-45 (London) for tennis, cinema, dining out & friendship. Photo plse. Box 6362 ✉

TWO attractive spinsters in Chiswick still waiting for Mr Right, wish to brush up their courting skills. Similarly rusty men 45-55. Please Reply Box No 6360 ✉

TWO ladies, outgoing & light-hearted (Jersey), blonde, fit, slim 40's, GSOH, WLTM gentlemen who haven't forgotten how a lady should be treated. We enjoy wining & dining, etc. but also enjoy home cooking. Photo please to Box No 6351 ☎ ✉

VERY young 43, divorced with two teenagers, GSOH, attractive, professional (Berks based), likes socialising, dining out etc. also football & Greece WLTM someone (same age) who makes me laugh, is good looking, would be a good friend & has strong shoulders to cuddle me with. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6309 ✉

WANTED: mature male 48+, single, sincere, GSOH to wine & dine this attractive slim, fit, independent brunette, animal loving (horses, dogs, etc.) 40ish. Photo please. Wales/London. Box No 6341 ☎ ✉

WELL balanced, attractive, educated, petite widow, fair haired, now ready to live again and share travel, theatre, etc. with a cheerful lively 60ish gentleman. Near London. Photo please. Box No 6112 ✉

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THE TIMES
cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

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SUCCESSFUL Professional well educated Irish business lady, 44, semi-retired, no ties, free to travel anytime, financially independent natural redhead, blue eyes, seeks long term relationship preferably in Yorkshire with like minded gentleman aged 48-55. Photo please, Reply to Box No 5941 ✉

POSITIVE, creative, outgoing lady, dark haired, good looking, 43, Mids based, I've learned to be independent & capable but need a shoulder to lean on occasionally. Loves travel, the arts, architecture, design. Is looking for a man who knows how to cherish & be cherished. Photo please to Box No 5662 ✉

SEEKING the man who can accept me as I am without being competitive: three University degrees, 4 languages, intl career, n/s mother of teenagers, excellent cook, super organiser, tactile woman, sensitive girl with a loony streak. Missing my mate for travels/walks, concerts, dinners, sea, baths, sauna, bed, phone, Internet - talking and laughing with. If 40+, tall or otherwise towering near J6 M4, please get in touch, photo would be nice. Box 5757 ☎ ✉

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LONDON AND NATIONWIDE

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ADVENTUROUS, successful managing director (London), 41, single, 6 ft, attractive, stylish, amusing. Eclectic tastes (concerts, tennis, horses, bridge, skiing, Arts, tropical sunsets, fun, etc). Seeks unforgettable girl friend, best friend, lover & partner 20's/30's with pizzazz, savoir faire, a warm smile, and who doesn't mind being spoilt a little or even a lot. Photo please. Box No 6328 ✉

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ENJOYABLE (hedonistic implies shallow), unsophisticated (I do go to the theatre but prefer holding hands in dinners for 2), career success (a fulfilling job which more than provides for the material needs) who is a typical Leo aged 50 (5'10" & slim)- with no encumbrances (a bit earthy, a bit spoilt but with some charm & a twinkle in his eye). Domiciled in Kensington, I get pleasure from those simple things in life, the old fashioned values are important. You are younger & combine both beauty & brains with an uncomplicated but substantive personality. You seek a mutually beneficial relationship founded on trust. A relationship that would build us both & provide the bonds we seek. I look forward to your reply with your [illegible] Note: No references to GSOH or WLTM, just the facts. Please Reply to Box No 6365 ✉

FED up with English winters? Every year I promise myself winter in the sun but travelling alone isn't much fun and I need attractive companion with incomparable personality for California visit in Jan and Feb. Illuminating letter and photograph please. Reply Box 6418 ✉

GENTLEMAN, impeccable background, 60, slim, N/S, WLTM lady 50+ to share full & pleasurable life. S.E. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 6387 ✉

GENUINE fellow, fit, active, solvent, widely interested, 65, 5'6" WLTM honest, open, attractive younger lady for good times together. Have time, will travel. Sussex, anywhere. Photo possible? Box No 6298 ✉

GOOD-LOOKING man, 64, tall, slim, fit, enjoys music, literature, the arts, exercise, seeks attractive cultured woman 50+ to cherish for love & marriage Photo plse Cambridge but distance no object Reply Bx 6324 ☎ ✉

HANTS/Surrey. Sincere, genuine & interesting professional N/S, 5'7", 45 yr male, enjoys active social life, antiques, sport & good country pubs, seeks lady 30's/40's to share each others realities & dreams. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6299 ✉

HAPPY, mischievous but caring prof. chap, 30, London based, 5'8", solvent, seeks prof female nourish in age & outlook for friendship, ideally more. Loves eating out, walks, auctions, tennis, [illegible], laughing but not football. Photo appreciated to Box No 6391 ☎ ✉

LOVING and caring youngish Widower seeks slim very good looking 'society' city/town type lady 40-55 with no ties to socialise and holiday together and with view to long term relationship and maybe more. London/ Midlands. Please Reply with photo essential to Box No. 6378 ✉

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WANTED! for assignation. Bright, slim, attractive lady living S Central or Yorks and aged 40-50. Will be rewarded with [illegible] from sincere, tactile, fit N/S good-looking, erudite successful businessman, 5'9", many interests, in late 50's seeking long term relationship. Reply with photo to Box No 6372 ✉

WICKED woman wanted to put a twinkle in my eye. Tall, N/S, presentable, slightly unconventional country boy, WLTM the usual attractive (blah blah blah) girl, in her forties for all climates and all seasons based in Kent and East Sussex. Would you want me to take life more seriously? Reply Box No 6407 ✉

WITTY, caring, intelligent and chatty, 49, 5'6", big brown eyes, dark and balding! Own professional business, own outlook. You could be slim, N/S, attractive and fun with a kind, no problem outlook, in your 30s/40s. You love good music, fast cars, walking, eating, travel and other hedonistic delights. If so, let's get together - now! Photo please. Box 4358 ✉

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SERIOUSLY successful professional, attractive, amusing and unpretentious, fortunate enough to enjoy an exceptional lifestyle with interests including countryside, travel, motor sports and racing, with no ties (except for the cat) seeks a lasting relationship with an equally exceptional, very pretty young lady 25-35 with style and humour. Photo appreciated. Yorks Box No 5924 ☎ ✉

SOMETHING unutterably different! I'm looking for someone who loves challenge to help me build a fascinating, lucrative entrepreneurial/seminar business involving UK and foreign travel. Although obviously ambitious, I love life, am deeply spiritual, very tactile and romantic, well educated, 6', slim and attractive 50s. If you are very slim and in your 40s, lets share life, love and togetherness! Photo please. West/Home Counties/London. Please Reply to Box No 5919 ☎ ✉

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

Highest June deposits for ten years as investors bet on more windfall

Carpetbaggers 'blitz' societies

By Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth

NEARLY £2 billion poured into building society coffers last month as speculators took a massive punt on which society would be the next to convert into a bank.

Building society inflows in June were the highest monthly figure for a decade. Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, said: "This reveals the intense pressure societies are under from carpetbaggers." He added: "The disruption that this intense speculation brings is not a situation that should be allowed to continue. It is quite unacceptable that the service to small savers and genuine and long-standing customers is affected."

About £30 billion has been paid to members of mutual societies that have opted for a stock market listing, and yesterday JP Morgan, the merchant bank, confirmed it was to advise Birmingham Midshires, the sixth-largest society, on its future.

All eyes are now on the Nationwide. The society's plans are likely to be determined by the outcome of Thursday's board election. The indications are that many members have voted for a group of dissident members, led by Michael Hardern, a freelance butler, who want the Nationwide to convert.

Dr Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide, said it was pure speculation to suggest the large number of votes pointed to a Hardern victory. "If the five do get elected, then obviously we will have to reconsider our position," he added. If Mr Hardern and the other dissidents win, it is believed that Nationwide would favour a trade sale rather than flotation. Dr Davis claimed he had not received approaches from any other organisations, but in the past has admitted that if the right offer came along it would have to consider it. Prudential said yesterday that it was interested in acquiring a building society.

The society's advisers, Goldman Sachs, have put a price of £7 billion on the Nationwide — this could give members an average payout of £2,000. However, analysts believe that the predators currently circulating in the financial sector would be unwilling to pay this high a price. Concerns about the future of building societies were raised by MPs on the all-party Building Societies Group. It is holding an emergency meeting with Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, after the announcement of the Nationwide vote.

The group, chaired by Andrew Love, MP for Edmonton, is extremely concerned that the Nationwide, now the UK's biggest building society, could be forced to convert. The committee wants Ms Liddell to act to prevent other societies from being threatened.

Roy Ranson, managing director of Equitable Life, the mutual insurer, called yesterday for a period of protection to be given to mutual bodies that were the subject of takeover bids. He said that this would allow members to balance the benefits of immediate windfalls against the long-term advantages of remaining part of a mutually owned organisation.

Mr Ranson added: "Payouts of £1,000 tend to cloud people's vision. They need space to sit back and reflect."

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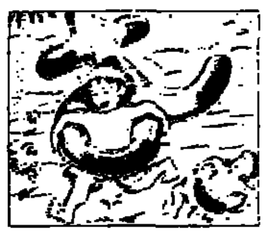

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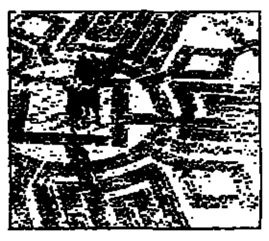

INVESTMENT

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Offshore investment and tax special

BZW sacks four as SEC looks into losses

By Jason Nissé

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd, the troubled investment banking arm of Barclays, has fired four staff and is being investigated by US regulators over allegations that it absorbed losses incurred by its clients.

The losses, made early last year, only came to light this spring during an internal audit and involved trades for Sceptre Investment Counsel of Toronto and Lexington Management of New Jersey.

The US Securities & Exchange Commission is investigating *claims that* BZW absorbed the trading losses of $80,000 (£48,000) to retain a good relationship with the clients, a practice that violates the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and the National Association of Securities Dealers, which runs the Nasdaq market. Three years ago Yamaichi Securities, the Japanese firm, settled out of court after being accused by the SEC of similar practices.

BZW yesterday admitted that it had covered the losses but said they came from "*operational errors*" when telephone orders were incorrectly processed by BZW traders and back office staff. "Under no circumstances has BZW or will BZW cover trading losses made by our clients," said a spokeswoman in New York.

The SEC investigation has received testimony from Kate Evans, a former BZW trader, who claimed that error forms were changed to hide the trading losses BZW had absorbed. BZW refused to discuss Ms Evans or her testimony.

The New York operation is run by Callum McCarthy, a former corporate financier from Kleinwort Benson who joined BZW with Graham Pirnlott, who has been promoted to a strategy role within Barclays by Martin Taylor, its chief executive.

BZW has been hit by a series of defections since Bill Harrison, the former Flemings banker, took over as chief executive last year. Patrick O'Sullivan, the chief operating officer, resigned to join Eagle Star, the insurer, earlier this week.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4877.2	(−71.8)
Yield	3.39%	
FTSE All share	2284.14	(−27.42)
Nikkei	20249.32	(−259.93)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7912.30	(−108.47)*
S&P Composite	917.28	(−14.33)*
Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	6.53%*	(6.49%)
3-mth Interbank	[illegible]%	([illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114¾	([illegible])
New York:		
$	1.6785*	(1.5730)
London:		
$	1.6744	(1.6719)
DM	2.9963	(2.9952)
FFr	10.1310	(10.1210)
SFr	2.4679	(2.4763)
Yen	193.41	(194.01)
£ Index	104.8	(104.7)
London:		
DM	1.7867*	(1.7920)
FFr	6.0435*	(6.0565)
SFr	1.4715*	(1.4805)
Yen	115.35*	(115.90)
$ Index	103.0	(103.9)
Tokyo close Yen 115.75		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	$18.35	($18.70)
London close	$324.25	($320.65)

* denotes midday trading price

The Spice Girls, EMI assets but not board material, though a woman candidate is sought

Southgate: find the lady

> In view of the fact that five of our main assets are young ladies, I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want you to do
>
> — Indignant shareholder

Fifield: £6.9m package

Girl power rules at EMI

By Paul Durman

ZIGAZIG AH! Girl power may have given a terrific boost to EMI Group's profits last year, yet the music company behind the Spice Girls has still to admit even one woman on to its board.

Sir Colin Southgate, the EMI chairman who has been known to refer to Geri, Mel B, Mel C, Emma and Victoria as "sex on ten legs", yesterday told his shareholders what they, and everyone else, already knew — the Spice Girls were the most notable of the company's successful new acts last year.

But Sir Colin was put on the spot when one woman shareholder, echoing "Wannabe" told him "what I want, what I really really want" was at least one woman appointed as a director. After all, she said, "Five of our main assets are young ladies."

Sir Colin, who had earlier defended the £6.9 million package paid to Jim Fifield, president and chief executive of EMI Music, told her he was already looking for "a lady who can make a contribution on the board", and was in negotiations with one candidate. Sir Colin said the second Spice Girls album will be out in time for Christmas.

The rise of the Spice Girls may not be enough to offset the rise of the pound, which could cost EMI £45 million-50 million in lost profits this year. EMI said it is unlikely to be able to improve on its UK results last year.

FTSE falls swiftly after 5,000 flirtation

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

THE FTSE 100 came within two points of breaching the elusive 5,000 barrier yesterday before equity bears gained the upper hand and sent shares crashing to their largest one-day fall since March.

After rising 49.1 points in the first hour of official trading, shares beat a sharp retreat, with the index falling 100 points by mid-afternoon before staging a recovery. The FTSE 100 closed 71.8 lower, at 4,877.2.

International stock markets *also suffered heavy losses as* Wall Street retreated. Markets in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan closed sharply down.

Dealers blamed the fall in London on the expiry of July futures options contracts and renewed fears over US interest rate rises. The FTSE 100 is expected to remain volatile next week ahead of retail sales data, regarded as crucial to determining when the Bank of England will increase interest rates again. But economists shrugged off monetary data that showed M4, the measure of broad money supply, increasing at an annual rate of 11.5 per cent in June, the fastest rate for seven years.

Economists said the headline figures had been distorted by gilt repo lending and that underlying figures pointed to robust but unspectacular money supply growth. Underlying M4 rose 6.1 per cent in line with the three-month average.

Separate British Bankers Association figures showed housing lending rising by £900 million in June, the largest increase for four years.

Markets, page 28

BA aims to form Iberia alliance

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday announced plans to form an alliance with Iberia, the state-owned Spanish airline.

Detailed talks are to begin on setting up the deal that could come into effect from next summer and provide BA with greater access to Latin American routes.

Iberia won approval for a £440 million state cash injection last year in spite of fierce objections from a number of rival airlines, including BA.

Latin America is one of BA's weakest regions and the airline has been trying to establish better links for many years. As well serving routes from Madrid to most Latin American capital cities, Iberia has stakes in airlines in Colombia, Chile and Argentina.

BA's tie-up with Iberia would enable the airlines to book passengers from London to Madrid with BA and then on to South America on Iberia with one ticket and one flight number.

The Spanish Government plans to privatise Iberia early next year and BA said yesterday it would consider taking a small stake in the airline.

Under the proposals, the airlines will operate flights beyond both London and Madrid under the same code number and allow each other's passengers to take part in their frequent flyer programmes. BA and Iberia hope to reduce costs by sharing some services and co-ordinating such operations as cargo. The alliance would give Iberia access to BA's worldwide network.

Bob Ayling, BA chief executive, said: "This agreement would offer both our and Iberia's customers considerable advantages, in particular making it easier to fly to a wider range of destinations."

The European Commission has been informed of the proposals, which could also involve American Airlines should BA's planned alliance also be approved.

Tempus, page 28

Doubts over BT plan to link with MCI

By Paul Durman

UK INVESTORS increasingly doubt *the wisdom of British* Telecom's £12 billion merger with America's MCI amid evidence of a growing rift between the companies' senior management.

MCI's warning last week of $1.6 billion (£960 million) losses was prompted by problems it faces breaking into local phone markets. But investors are also concerned at prospects for MCI's core long-distance business. Rather than simply renegotiating terms with MCI, some investors are starting to believe that BT should abandon the deal.

Neil Woodford, a senior investment manager at Perpetual, a large BT shareholder, said: "The prospects of the opportunity to walk away look more and more attractive." Alex Crooke, telecoms analyst with Henderson, another large investment firm, said: "We really are beginning to question whether carrying on with this deal is the right way forward."

Mr Crooke said he was impressed by a hard-hitting note from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson that said BT management should seize the opportunity of the MCI bombshell to walk away.

James Dodd, the Kleinwort analyst, argues that MCI's long-distance business risks "a high chance of going into terminal decline" because of future competition from computer networks and Internet telephony. He also doubted the need for BT to have a major presence in the US and said that MCI resembled past takeover disasters.

MCI would not confirm a report, which worried UK investors, that it first told BT about heavy losses in its local business in March.

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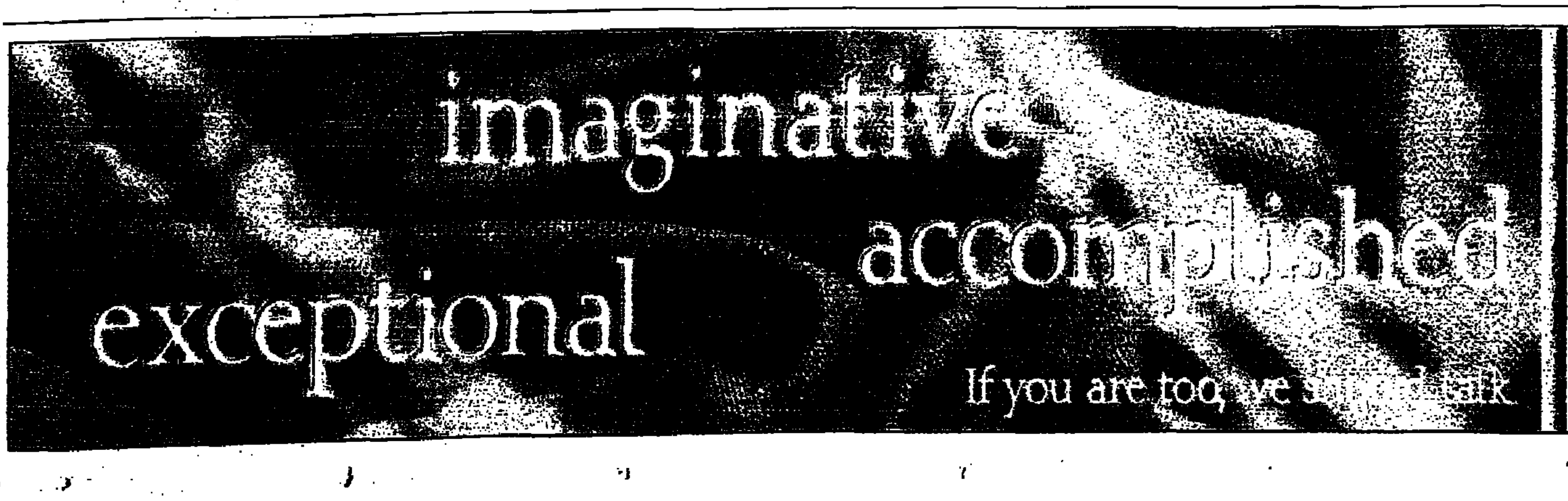

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OFT warns lenders about unfair practices

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, Director-General of Fair Trading, issued his strongest warning yet to finance companies specialising in loans to people with poor credit ratings: clean up your act or lose your consumer credit licences.

Lenders and brokers have been given two months to stop practices that Mr Bridgeman called deceitful, oppressive and unfair. New guidelines from the OFT prohibit the use of dual rates of interest, which can double the amount borrowers owe if they are late making payments. They also ban lenders from levying excessively high redemption penalties using a calculation known as rule 78. Mr Bridgeman said rule 78 was inappropriate and that lenders should introduce caps or find alternative methods. Either way, penalties should be reasonable and do no more than cover lenders' costs, said Mr Bridgeman.

The new rules also make lenders responsible for the actions of brokers selling their loans. Brokers can receive commissions up to 10 per cent of the value of a loan and there have been many cases of hard selling, cold calling and fraudulent loan applications.

Solicitors acting for borrowers with City Mortgage Corporation, the largest of secondary lenders, applauded the initiative. They have been fighting CMC on the very points condemned by Mr Bridgeman and expect to issue a writ for a class action against the company in the next week.

David Steene, managing director of CMC, also welcomed the introduction of regulatory standards, as did Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister. Last month he held talks with Mr Bridgeman on how "non-status" lenders could be regulated.

CMC pointed out that it had already said it would withdraw rule 78 on new loans from August 1. However, it refused to comment on the financial impact that abolishing dual rates and rule 78 would have on its existing loan portfolio. CMC represents a quarter of the turnover of Cityscape, its US parent, but contributes more than half the group's profits. All its loans are immediately securitised by Greenwich International, a subsidiary of NatWest Markets. Analysts said the bonds, which are mostly sold in the US market, could be downgraded.

UK investors plan rescue of ailing Grundig

BY OLIVER AUGUST

A UK investor group led by Botts & Co, a privately owned merchant bank in London, will attempt to rescue Grundig, the ailing German television manufacturer.

The Botts investors yesterday acquired a 43 per cent stake in Grundig from Philips, the Dutch electronics group, and from Hohenstaufen Vierundvierzigste Vermögensverwaltung, a German investor group.

The UK investors say they will inject undisclosed new capital into Grundig and could acquire majority control in 2004. Grundig's management was not told of the change of ownership.

Michael Handrick, a Botts director, said: "We invest in companies which we believe to be undervalued. Our average holding time is three to five years. Grundig obviously has some problems. One of the reasons is the recession in Germany. But we feel the company can be turned around, hopefully faster than in three to five years."

Philips still holds a 5 per cent stake after selling a 26.6 per cent stake to the UK investors. A stake of 52 per cent is held by the Max Grundig Foundation family trust with an option to sell its stake to Philips for DM411 million (£135 million) in 2004.

Mr Handrick said: "If and when the shares are put to Philips, we have the right to purchase them from Philips. We prefer not to talk about the price."

He said that if the Botts investors sold their stake before 2004 then the right to buy the foundation shares could be sold as part of the package.

Botts will begin talks with Grundig in the next few weeks. Mr Handrick said: "The relationship between Grundig and Philips has not been a very harmonious one. We have not had access to the Grundig management and therefore our picture of them is somewhat sketchy."

Philips stopped covering losses at Grundig this year and said that it wanted to become a passive shareholder. A spokesman said: "It is a logical further step to reduce our interest in Grundig."

Philips is disputing Grundig's losses of DM671 million (£223 million) for 1996. It said the stated losses had been inflated by extensive provisions for new policies adopted after the year end. Arthur Andersen, the accountants, endorsed this view.

Grundig is disputing Philips's claim.

ROBIN MAYES

Well covered: David Green, of Colefax & Fowler, the wallpaper and furnishings company, reported pre-tax profits of £2.63 million from £1.84 million in the year to April 30. Earnings rose to 7.7p a share from 5.7p. A final dividend of 1.4p, due on October 7, increases the total to 2.3p from 1.9p. The group saw strong sales growth in all its brands

Ionica set for £640m flotation

IONICA, the telecoms company that aims to rival BT in providing local phone services, will launch itself on the market at a value of £640 million next week (Christine Buckley writes).

The move will make the 6 per cent stake of Nigel Playford, chief executive, worth £38 million. Other directors are in line for share packages worth £360,000 each when trading in the shares — priced at 390p — starts next Friday.

Ionica, which lost £43.9 million last year, operates telephone services through fixed radio access. It has put up 24 per cent of its shares for flotation, which will raise £147 million. The 390p price is at the higher end of expectations.

Top brands join four-way sales tie

BY GEORGE SIVELL

FOUR UK consumer brand giants have taken the first steps towards combining aspects of their global product marketing.

Bass Brewers, Cadbury, Kimberly-Clark and Unilever will work towards joint marketing of each other's products in a venture to be based at Birds Eye's offices in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Initially the four will pool information on consumer trends but will work towards joint marketing. They will take an equal share in the joint venture although the costs and the number of staff to be deployed were not disclosed.

However, the opportunities for cross-marketing are vast. Unilever is putting its Birds Eye Wall's food brands, Elida Faberge, Lever Brothers detergents and Van den Bergh foods, into the study.

Kimberly-Clark brands include Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kimwipes, Kleenex and Wypall. Cadbury has 13 brands in the league table of top 30 chocolate brands and Bass has 23 per cent of the British market through Carling Black Label, Tennent's Lager and Draught Bass.

The four say: "We have to stay at the forefront of consumer marketing, an area that is constantly developing. The aim is to improve our understanding of, and dialogue with, consumers in order that brands continue to meet their needs. All our members already have a detailed knowledge of consumers. However, to enhance this we will work together, building a pool of information of a size and quality that would not be achieveable by an individual company."

Trade fears grow over Boeing link

BY GEORGE SIVELL

TRADE analysts believe the Clinton Administration has a case under World Trade Organisation rules if, as seems likely, the European Commission imposes a formal block next week on the huge aerospace merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

WTO officials were plainly nervous over the prospects of a complex row between two of the world's largest trading blocks, believing it threatened the fabric of a carefully nurtured disputes mechanism.

The official WTO line was: "The US and the EU are two of our biggest members. We hope they resolve this amicably and rapidly." The statement came after President Clinton signalled earlier this week that he would seek a WTO ruling or impose sanctions on Europe if the merger were blocked by Brussels.

Trade envoys believe such a dispute would bog down the WTO, which is now trying to settle almost 70 disputes. They also fear that the vast sums of money involved could tempt either side to brush aside any WTO ruling.

A similar threat was avoided in 1995 when America and Japan settled a row over car exports. Another European-American dispute over the Helms-Burton law on investment in Cuba is in suspense.

The WTO dispute settlement system provides for final rulings by neutral panels and appeals boards within a maximum of 18 months of a complaint being lodged.

The EU has argued that the merger would create a dominant global firm damaging fair competition in Europe. Brussels is expected to take a final decision on on July 23.

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Expansion and change of venues for London Clubs

BY DOMINIC WALSH

LONDON Clubs International, the upmarket casino operator, has been granted a new casino licence that will enable it to move its Rendezvous Casino at the London Hilton on Park Lane to new premises adjoining the nearby Metropolitan hotel.

Alan Goodenough, chief executive, speaking after the company's annual meeting yesterday, said that up to £5 million would be spent on the new Rendezvous.

He said the 20-year lease was at a rent 20 per cent lower than the Hilton premises. Industry observers expect Ladbroke, the Hilton's owner, to consider transferring one of its own London licences to the old Rendezvous site. The resolution of the Rendezvous move follows Mr Goodenough's success in sorting out a messy dispute with the Ritz Hotel, whose owners, the Barclay brothers, were demanding a £20 million premium for a new lease on the Ritz Club in the hotel's basement.

Goodenough: two moves

London Clubs has bought the freehold of a much bigger Grade II listed building for £13.5 million, and is spending £5.5 million refurbishing it. The new casino, to be called 50 St James after its address on St James Street, is scheduled to open after the Ritz Club lease expires next June.

Mr Goodenough is still awaiting a decision by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, on London Clubs's £190 million bid for Capital Corporation, its smaller London rival. London Clubs withdrew the bid after it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but analysts expect it to revive its interest if cleared by Mrs Beckett.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

"For some people the deal has taken on a symbolic importance beyond the £24 billion at stake. It has become a power struggle between the Anglo-Saxon business establishment and an entrepreneurial Frenchman; a battle over some of the most potent brands in the world"

Business Focus on the Guinness - GrandMet merger — tomorrow

Club Med founders quit

BY JON ASHWORTH

CLUB Méditerranée, the French leisure group, has parted company with the founding family that dreamt up the "sun, sea and sex" holiday formula nearly 50 years ago.

Serge Trigano, pushed aside as chairman in February, and his father Gilbert, who co-founded Club Med in 1950, have resigned from the company's supervisory board in a falling-out with his successor, Philippe Bourguignon, the former head of the Euro Disney theme park operator.

The departures came as Club Med announced a loss of Fr413 million (£40.49 million) for the six months to April 30. Operating profits of Fr84 million were more than offset by Fr88 million in interest charges. The company, whose largest shareholder is now Italy's Agnelli family, said further provisions were possible.

M Trigano said on French radio that Club Med's villages risked turning into "Mickey [Mouse] clubs", and it was time for the founders to get out. "There was a certain spirit in this firm, a certain soul based on love, tenderness and generosity," he said. "I don't know if it will be a Mickey Club or something else but it will certainly be a different club from the past, and it's not *my* club. There is no place left for a Trigano."

He hinted that the Trigano family planned to launch a rival holiday club chain, addressing new leisure markets such as the elderly.

Club Med confirmed the departures in a statement thanking Gilbert Trigano, who supplied the original tent villages on which Club Med built its reputation, and Serge Trigano for "his action". The company grew to embrace 114 all-inclusive Club Med villages around the world, but fell victim to a cumbersome management structure. The number of Club Med clients grew by 30,000 to 1.4 million last year, but turnover and profits fell.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shareholder attacks warning by Johnston

JOHNSTON GROUP, the engineering, pipes and construction conglomerate, was fiercely criticised by a leading shareholder after a profits warning sent its shares into freefall. The company, whose shares closed 65p down at 385p, wiping £7 million off its value, gave warning that both its results for the six months to June and its full-year results would be lower than in 1996. The surprise announcement infuriated TT Group, the rival conglomerate which made a hostile bid for 27.4 per cent of Johnston last year. It offered 500p per share, valuing the company at £53.49 million.

Johnston rebuffed TT, which still owns 7 per cent, by reassuring shareholders that its management strategy was sound and that its underlying businesses were growing. Although TT refused to say whether it would make another bid it strongly urged Johnston to sell its construction contracting business and its business in North America. Johnston blamed its problems on the strength of sterling, and difficulties with its new roadsweeping machine.

WHS buyback move

WH SMITH Group, the troubled retailer whose shares have fallen more than 30 per cent in the past 12 months, is to seek authority to buy back up to 10 per cent of its equity. The buyback would involve the purchase of up to 28.5 million shares, which, at yesterday's close, would cost £105 million. An extraordinary meeting has been convened for August 19. The buyback would not be implemented until the year-end results on August 27. The shares have fallen to 368½p, from a 12-month high of 532p, amid concern about the trading performance and defection of Bill Cockburn, chief executive, to BT.

Mansfield buys again

MANSFIELD, the Nottinghamshire brewery, continued its expansion plans buying seven managed houses from an independent Northampton pub firm. Mansfield will pay £8.5 million for the McManus Taverns properties. Their addition takes Mansfield's total in the town to 17 which it said "firmly cemented" its presence in the county. Mansfield will take control of the pubs and their 150 staff within seven days, phasing in its products and beers over the next couple of weeks. The company plans to spend some £30 million on expansion this year.

AH Ball payout fear

A H BALL, the building and construction group, is likely to make a provision of up to £800,000 for the year to March 31 and is unlikely to recommend a full-year dividend. The company made £166,000 in the year to March 1996. It said the anticipated dividend decision would be a result of a deficit on one of its main contracts and "currently unresolved issues". The company has also exchanged contracts to sell its freehold property in Farnham, Surrey, for £925,000, conditional only on obtaining appropriate planning consent. A planning application has been made.

Special from Arnold

BARR & WALLACE Arnold Trust is to pay shareholders a £17.9 million special dividend, worth 120p a share, after it completes the £41.8 million sale of the Wallace Arnold coach holiday business to management. The buyout, led by Robert Barr, BWAT director, is being backed by 3i, the venture capital group, which is providing £60 million funding. The deal, which is subject to shareholder approval, will leave BWAT as a motor dealer with Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot franchises. It is to change its name to Trust Motor Group. **Tempus, page 28**

MDIS restructuring

SHARES in McDonnell Information Systems were relisted as the troubled computer services group unveiled a £24.3 million restructuring to help to stay afloat. Restructuring cash was raised through the placing of 105 million shares at 26p each, which doubled the company's share capital. MDIS confirmed that its losses had increased to £49.5 million in the year to December, partly over exceptional charges of £21.5 million. Without the placing it would not have been able to settle its arrears of £9.5 million or liabilities of £4.6 million.

Hansom fall continues

HANSOM, the London taxi company that joined the Alternative Investment Market in 1995, last year continued its plunge into the red, making pre-tax losses of £1 million (£390,000 in the previous period). Turnover fell by 11.7 per cent, from £10.9 million to £9.6 million. The losses were caused partly by the group's restructuring, which involved getting rid of its taxi business in Fulham and investing £250,000 in Datacab. The group now expects to benefit from its reduced overheads. Again, no dividend will be paid.

Calluna drives into red

PRE-TAX losses at Calluna, maker of miniature hard disk drives, rose to £4.94 from £4.88 million in the year to end-March. Turnover fell to £2.22 million from £2.87 million, although second-half sales rose to £1.4 million (£780,000). The losses were caused partly by the development and early manufacturing of the 500MB 1.8-inch disk drive. Calluna said it would change its operating structure and trading partnerships to exploit market opportunities. Earnings fell to 8.4p a share from 9.1p. Again, there will be no dividend.

Grampian Holdings sale

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS is selling its interests in animal health products for £67.8 million to a new company backed by 3i and Bank of Scotland. Grampian Pharmaceuticals operates in Britain and Ireland but has interests in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In the 13 months to end-January, it earned operating profits of £7 million on turnover of £56.9 million. The disposal gives a gain of £32.5 million, which will be used mainly to fund retailing and transport developments. The company also aims to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.37	2.19
Austria Sch	22.07	20.41
Belgium Fr	65.03	60.07
Canada $	2.424	2.238
Cyprus Cyp£	0.923	0.851
Denmark Kr	11.99	11.10
Finland Mkk	9.40	8.65
France Fr	10.68	9.80
Germany Dm	3.16	2.92
Greece Dr	497	458
Hong Kong $	13.75	12.65
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.17	1.08
Israel Shk	6.23	5.58
Italy Lira	3094	2857
Japan Yen	208.23	190.70
Malta	0.666	0.629
Netherlds Gld	3.562	3.257
New Zealand $	2.73	2.49
Norway Kr	12.99	12.05
Portugal Esc	315.08	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.39
Spain Pta	263.79	245.00
Sweden Kr	13.89	12.70
Switzerland Fr	2.62	2.40
Turkey Lira	269857	248979
USA $	1.778	1.635

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shareholder atta

warning by Johns

WHS buyback mov

Mansfield buys aga

AH Ball payout fear

Special from Arnold

IDIS restructur

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: CHARLES MILLER SMITH

Battle-hardened general pulls off a revolution

Oliver August calls on the soft-spoken, heavy phone-using boss who almost single-handedly redrew the map of a chemicals empire

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

THE man who runs Britain's largest chemicals business does not have a desk. Charles Miller Smith has steered the radical reshaping of the Imperial Chemical Industries empire from a tidy green leather sofa. There are no loose pieces of paper or bank reports around. Not a single paper clip on the floor. One could mistake his office for the common room of an Oxford college.

"I've always had a horror of locking up my papers in a desk and losing the key," Miller Smith admits. So he disposed of the desk and the piles of paper.

The only thing to clutter the oak-panelled room is his trademark cardigan. Neatly folded, it is on the sofa next to him. He is reluctant to wear it having found a small hole in it. For a man who earned half a million pounds last year as chief executive this seems an unusually mundane worry. It is all the more unusual in view of his recent achievements.

The last fortnight has seen the culmination of Miller Smith's revolution that has changed ICI beyond recognition. In a frantic six days one deal was completed and two more agreed, with a total value of £8 billion. Like a battle-hardened general he marshalled his divisions and discarded renegade units. He also gave marching orders to tens of thousands of employees.

Almost single-handedly he redrew the map of a chemicals empire often described as the bellwether of British industry. But he did so without losing his reputation for being a soft-spoken conciliator.

The upheaval started with the completion of the £5 billion acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals business. During his 30-plus years at Unilever, the unit had been built up by Miller Smith himself. When he moved to ICI two years ago, he took with him the idea of focusing on speciality and industrial chemicals.

In a decisive break with the past, he designed a twin strategy that would remove ICI still further from its historic roots as a bulk chemicals producer and took it closer to the consumer and into less cyclical markets.

The acquisition of the Unilever division was the cornerstone of this strategy, which has won him praise from the City and within ICI. Sir Ronald Hempel, its chairman, said: "ICI was formed by merger 70 years ago. This deal creates nothing less than a new ICI for the new millennium."

To pay for Unilever's speciality chemicals business, Miller Smith needed to find £3 billion cash. In May, he gave himself three years to raise the money by selling off non-core activities. Less than three months later he has got the money. How did he do it? After completing the Unilever deal on Tuesday last week, he sold £1 billion worth of shares in ICI Australia the next Friday. This move was followed on Monday by the sale of several divisions, including the polyester unit, to DuPont for almost £2 billion. That paid for the acquisition of the Unilever business. "It gives me an overwhelming sense of satisfaction," says an understandably tired Miller Smith.

But the bare financial mechanics of his deal-making are no real answer to the question of how he did it. How could he move with such speed when ICI executives had despaired for so long? How could he make so many people join his bandwagon when the doorman hardly notices him slipping through the steel gates at the Millbank head office?

"The Unilever deal, for example, I sat for ten days non-stop on this sofa here. The only difference was instead of one, two, three, four people in the room," Miller Smith says, slowly gazing around the office, "there were a dozen by the end."

One of the greatest corporate reshapings in recent British history was essentially negotiated by Miller Smith talking on the phone from his sofa. "I had the phone here on my lap particularly at night. For some strange reason it doesn't ring through so you have to watch the red arrow flash. That's how we ran the Unilever deal, and similarly for the DuPont and the Australian deal."

> ‘This deal creates a new ICI for the new millennium’

But Miller Smith does not merely run the empire sitting down. "I'm a terrible wanderer," he says. During the hectic days of last week he got up at 6am and arrived at Millbank around 7.30 am. Much to the dismay of his secretary, Linda, he then proceeded to stroll through offices on all six floors, talking to staff instead of attending scheduled meetings.

Somewhat ironically for someone universally described as soft-spoken, Miller Smith thinks of himself as a compulsive walker and talker as well as a bad timekeeper. He says: "I am a wanderer around Millbank and a wanderer around the world. Why? You hear and see much more when you go to people then you ever get out of a hundred reports.

"That intuitive feeling of what is really happening, that gets lost when it is distilled, you will pick up in a second when you speak to people. It is a great way to break down barriers. If you wander around this building and wander around ICI, it is remarkable what you hear. You pick up in an instant personal tensions or animosities. You pick up different points of view left out of reports because they don't fit in with conventional wisdom."

ICI being a global enterprise, Miller Smith can walk into the offices of only a tiny minority of his staff. The group as a whole has more than 60,000 employees. To stay in touch with the many divisional executives in more than 30 countries — and to avoid reading their reports — he inevitably has to rely on the phone. Last week he made an average of 50 calls a day. "I use the phone a lot," he says with mock understatement. Next to his preferred end of the sofa — looking out over the Thames and Lambeth Bridge — is a small coffee table. The surface is wiped clean. On occasion his butler may put down a cup of Earl Grey. But the two items always on the table are his mobile phone and the old-fashioned phone with the red arrow.

The phone was especially invaluable during the Australian negotiations. The Australian Government sold its gold reserves a week before the billion-pound bundle of shares in ICI Australia were to be offered to investors, causing upheaval in the Australian financial markets.

Panic set in at Millbank. There was no telling how the offering was going to be affected.

Miller Smith says: "I made a call just before I went to sleep Thursday evening so the market was just opening in Australia. I heard the stock had opened well and knew the international offer was going well. I was back in my office at six o'clock in the morning. I phoned Mike Evans at Goldman Sachs and heard how it was going to be priced."

The alternative to phone overkill would be the acquisition of an ICI corporate jet to ferry Miller Smith around. But, showing the Calvinist frugality of his Scottish upbringing, he prefers scheduled airliners. "They are safer and cheaper," he says.

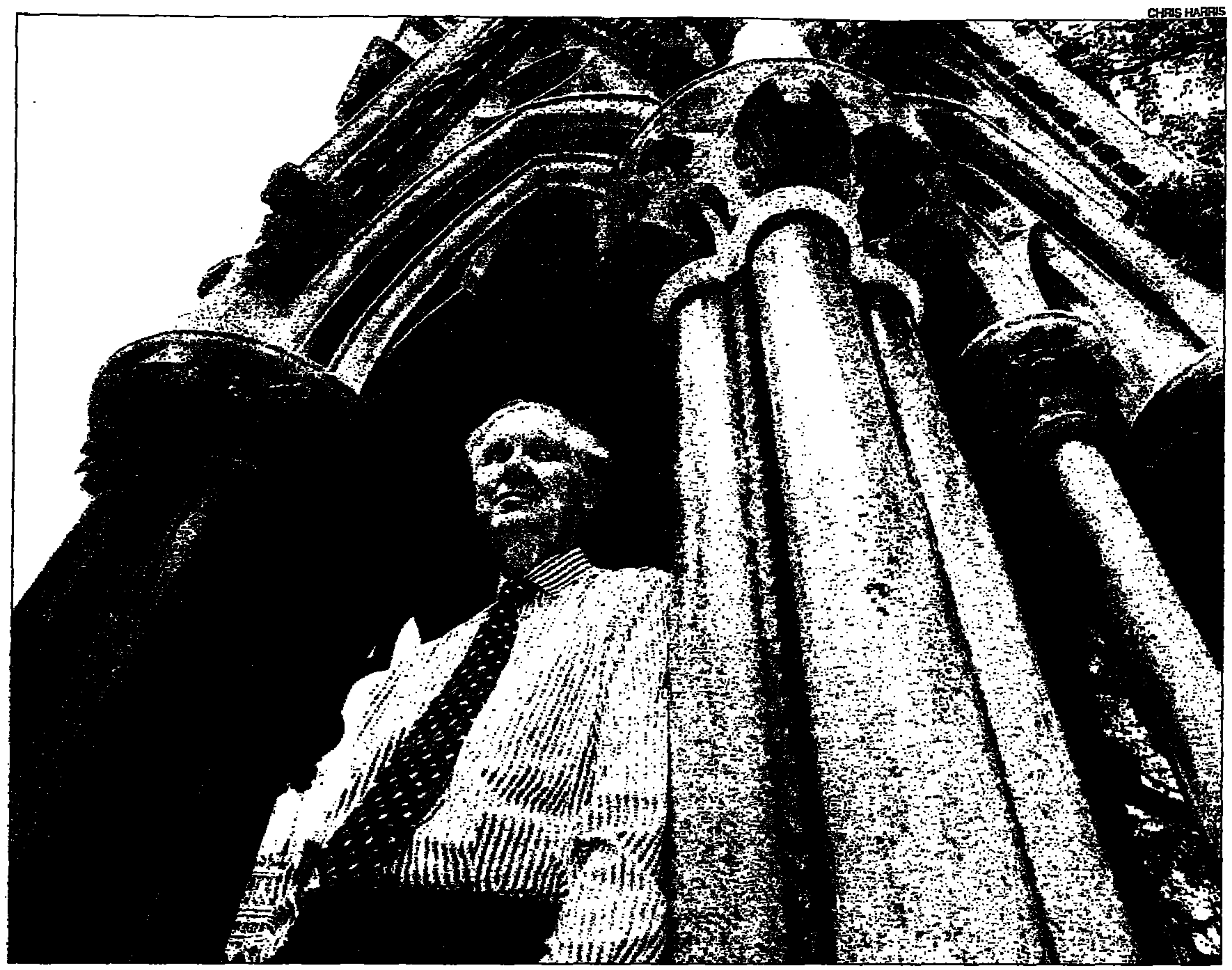
Restricting overseas travel to occasional trips also has the advantage of granting him more time with the family. His musings on his loved ones paint the picture of a deeply ordinary life. Happily married to Dorothy for 40 years, Miller Smith has three grown-up children. He and his wife like to stay in most nights.

When he comes home they gossip "about the office". At ten he goes to bed and reads until he falls asleep. Every Saturday, including last Saturday, the two of them go to the same Italian restaurant on Lower Sloane Street. Every Sunday, including last Sunday, the whole family lunches together. Whenever possible they go walking near their cottage in Aberdeenshire.

To relax, the mild-mannered Miller Smith is at present reading an ancient Chinese book, *The Art of War*, by Sun Zi. The book is the declared bible of famous generals like Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf War supremo. Is this where the grand strategies for ICI come from? And would a truly mild-mannered man really read such a book?

Whatever the answer, this oh-so-ordinary man is everything the British like in themselves. He is courteous, self-deprecating and strong-minded without being brash. While it is hard to believe that Miller Smith is really in charge of such a huge company, it is impossible to dislike him.

CHRIS HARRIS



Charles Miller Smith has always had a horror of locking up documents in a desk and losing the key — so he disposed of the desk and the piles of paper

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pen friends

ALL those teenage scribblers at ABN Amro Hoare Govett have a new boss. Lyn Moran, former managing director of investment banking at James Capel, resurfaces there on Monday as head of European research. She has been brought in by Nick Bannister, recently made regional boss at Hoare Govett for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

I would not wish to disturb any of those keen analysts. But her priority is to ensure that research, sales and corporate finance work as a team, I am told. This might be a bit of corporate flim-flam, or it might be more sinister. Most analysts feel that job satisfaction, reputation, sanity, whatever, is best safeguarded by having as little to do with corporate finance as possible.

● *ONE of the men behind the production by cloning of Dolly the sheep is joining the biotech company PPL Therapeutics. Keith Campbell joins from the Roslin Institute, where he worked on the Dolly project with Ian Wilmut. He is heading research on a process called nuclear transfer, which was used on Dolly and something to do with PPL's business. Don't ask me how, but it gives me the shivers. A million dollars to a broken test-tube that he gets a sharp rise from his academic salary.*

I was unable to track down Dr Campbell to answer one or two scientific questions that bother me. Given all sheep look the same, how do we know you've cloned them? And how do we know Dolly 2 isn't merely Dolly 1's natural sister with a matching haircut?

"He's not at his desk just now. Can I put you through to one of his clones?"

Carr race

SOMETHING of a needle match at this weekend's Dragon Boat race at Henley? A team is entering from the broker Carr Sheppards, including Fred Carr, chief executive and a Oxford rowing blue — on the assumption that he does not swamp the boat, for he is a big chap. There is also a boat crewed by Investec of South Africa, which has just bought Carr Sheppards. It is whispered that the South Africans, who are never keen on losing at anything, might have slipped in a couple of ringers.

Figured out

YET another senior City journalist has been lured into the seedy world of financial public relations. Ian Griffiths, City editor of the *Independent on Sunday* is starting his descent into inevitable madness, degradation and despair in early September, when he joins the Ludgate PR agency.

Griffiths, 42, is well travelled, having run the City pages of *The Independent* and the London *Evening Standard*, but he has now succumbed to the mid-life crisis that seems to afflict so many City writers eventually. Or perhaps it is the money. He is a qualified accountant with a serious publication to his name, *Creative Accounting* — "not your usual popular stuff written by a journalist", says my informant witheringly.

Steele away

GRAHAM STEELE has quit abruptly as managing director of the Superdrug chain "for personal reasons". Kingfisher, which owns Superdrug, was not being very helpful yesterday, but I am assured this has nothing to do with reports a while back that he was planning a management buyout. The statement was slipped out quietly and not announced through the Stock Exchange screens. Legal, as he was not a main board director, but still strange. The City, puzzled, immediately wondered whether the expensive refurbishment at Superdrug stores had not proved its worth. No connection with this, either, I am assured.

Landau goes

FAREWELL then, Ervin Landau, retiring as chairman of Dares Estates and selling his 3 per cent stake. The property tiddler paid £356,000 in fees to its lawyers, Landau Nock & Co, last year — senior partner, yes, you guessed it. I wonder if this volume of work will continue to flow in future.

● *IF MINISTERS did indeed decide on Thursday that the British Aerospace deal to sell Hawk jets to Indonesia should be allowed through, they showed remarkable insensitivity. The £160 million sale has been opposed by civil rights groups because of allegations that Indonesia uses the craft against its opponents in East Timor. Last Thursday, July 17, was the 21st anniversary of the illegal annexation of East Timor by Indonesia.*

In person

I HEAR Merrill Lynch was upstaged at a roadshow yesterday to launch a bond issue from Reliance Industries of India by the other co-lead manager, HSBC. The Americans fielded the usual team at Painters Hall, for the 100 or so fund managers and analysts that turned up.

But HSBC brought along Sir William Purves, its chairman, who has played an increasingly hands-on role since his return from Hong Kong a while back, to add the personal touch — "leaving Merrill in the front row with fixed grins," says my informant. As one of his colleagues muttered as Purves took the rostrum for a brief presentation, "once a commercial banker, always a commercial banker".

MARTIN WALLER

Sir William Purves — once a commercial banker, always a commercial banker

THE TIMES

GOLF
In-depth coverage of the final day from The Open.

ARTS
Festival fever. A review of the Phoenix festival.

IN MONDAY'S TIMES

BOXING
Prince Naseem Hamed defends his world title.

FEATURE
On Sight and Insight. A story about coping with blindness.

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CHANGING TIMES

STOCK MARKET CLARE STEWART

FTSE follows the Dow with a 70-point plunge

THE stock market topped off what had been a record-breaking week with a white-knuckle roller-coaster ride as shares came clattering back down.

At its worst yesterday the FTSE 100 was down just over 100 points, tracking Wall Street, which slid back towards the 7,900 level.

By the close London prices had clawed back some ground to end 71.8 points lower at 4,877.2, with over £14 billion wiped off share values.

The afternoon's widespread profit-taking bit into sectors, such as banking, that have enjoyed a strong run recently. In one what one trader described as "nightmarish dealing conditions", prices went quickly into reverse, after 5,000 had been tantalisingly close.

The mid-morning option expiry saw some market-makers busy pushing the FTSE 100 towards the 5,000 mark, but shares, despite a 49-point jump, stopped short at 4,998.1, a new trading high.

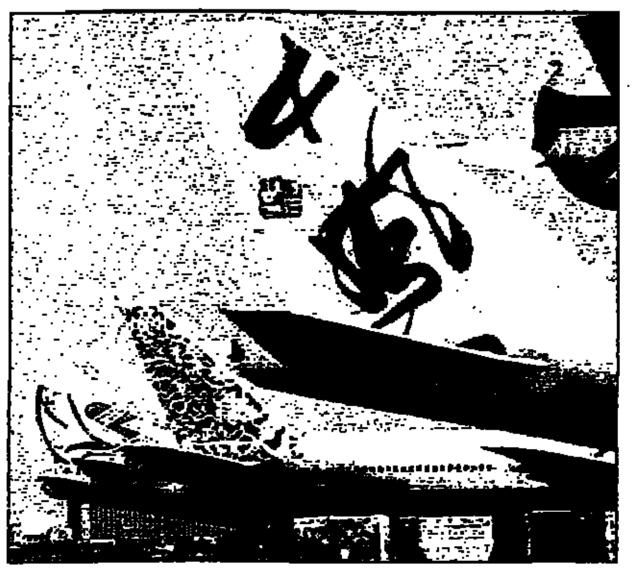
Last night dealers were watching Wall Street's progress nervously, fearing a substantial overnight fall could hit London hard when trading begins on Monday.

Before the afternoon price slide took hold, there was plenty for the market to chew on. **BT** was the most heavily traded stock amongst blue chips with volume of nearly 57 million.

Analysts at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the brokers, are taking a dim view of BT's plans to merge with MCI, in the wake of the US group's surprise profits warning last week. BT should walk away from the deal, says the broker, given the less than buoyant prospects for MCI's core business. BT ended the *day 10p lower at 430p.*

Other telecoms groups picked up the slack, but finished off their best of the day. **Cable & Wireless** ended up 3½p at 616p, **Orange** added 3½p to 208½p while **Vodafone** moved up 3½p to 307½p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has pencilled in a 350p target price and restated its buy stance on the group. Conditional trading in **Ionica** saw it make its debut at 390p and climbing to 421p at the close.

Profit-takers moved in at **HSBC** after its recent run, and by the close the shares had fallen 87½p to £29.90.



Sterling's strength and industrial action took 5p off BA

NatWest Bank also fell back as bid talk evaporated, ending 27p lower at 866p, while **Lloyds TSB** retreated 30p to 677p. **Woolwich**, the new recruit, closed 1½p lower at 298½p, while the **Abbey National** lost 29p to 862½p.

Asda, the supermarket group, was hotly pursued with talk of five million shares being bid for. Over 42 million changed hands and the shares closed up 3½p at 147½p, a new high for the group.

Other high-flyers among FTSE 100 shares included **AB Food**, which looked a safe haven in volatile conditions and moved up 13½p to 557½p.

With the oil companies' results coming into view, **BP** *jumped to a new closing high* of 813p, up 6½p. A bullish note on the sector from NatWest Securities, the broker, points to the resilience of oil company earnings despite lower oil prices. **Shell** ended 9p lower at 428p, while **Burmah Castrol** put on 10p to £10.41½.

Ahead of the insurance groups' reporting season analysts have been running their slide-rules over the sector. **Royal Sun Alliance** was again boosted by a broker's recommendation as SBC Warburg stuck a "buy" label on the stock. In common with the sector, Royal Sun Alliance has lagged behind the market and results should reflect the impact of cost savings. After earlier gains **Royal** ended up 8½p at 497p while **GRE**, another Warburg choice, dipped a penny to 293½p. **General Accident** missed out, *however, and fell 43½p to* 904p.

BG was helped 4p higher to 251p after a more upbeat note from Merrill Lynch, the broker. There is now scope for financial restructuring at BG, it says.

ICI, which confirmed plans for a $4bn fundraising exercise to reduce the cost of its borrowing and which reports interim figures next week, touched a trading high of 932½p, before slipping to 922½p, up 1½p.

BA dipped 5p to 683½p, knocked off course as analysts cut forecasts after counting the cost of the recent industrial action and the strength of sterling.

The spectre of the soaring pound was also hanging over **EMI**, where shareholders at the group's AGM were told that it could cost the group £45-£50 million. Shares dipped before rallying to close up 2½p at £10.86.

WH Smith ended 8½p lower at 368½p after announcing it wants shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

Among companies reporting yesterday, **Barr & Wallace Arnold**, the coach holiday and car dealership group, accelerated away from the difficult market conditions. It is to pay an £18 million special dividend to shareholders worth around 120p a share after a sale. The price closed at 343½p, up 34p.

A profits warning from **Johnston Group** sent shares tumbling to their lowest level this year. The closing price of 385p, down 65p, represented a fall of over 14 per cent.

Colefax & Fowler, the upmarket fabric and furnishings group, was cheered 8½p higher to 110p after boosting year-end profits 43 per cent to £2.63 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts missed out on the drama in the equities and recorded quieter trading. Economic data *released yesterday, including* M4 money supply figures, were seen as a little disappointing but not entirely unexpected. In futures, the September series of the long gilt ended up just £1/32 at £114 24/32 on low volume of 57,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 edged down £4/32 at £102 14/32 while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up £4/32 at £110 15/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares struggled to climb off their lows, but were battered by a severe bout of profit-taking. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 108.47 points lower at 7,912.30.

Newcastle United put on a modest ½p, to 123½p, after announcing the arrival of Stuart Pearce from Nottingham Forest while sports goods retailer JJB Sports was left on the bench as its shares shed 26p to 468p. Hi-Tec, the sports shoe maker put on 2p, to 40½p, after improved profits this week.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
ICI	922½	+112½	Restructuring moves
HSBC	2090	+128½	Analysts rerating
Micro Focus	1685	-215	Chief executive leaves
Medeva	222	-34	After results
Thorn	161	-16	Tough trading conditions
Plasmon	55½	-126	Profit warning
WH Smith	368½	+27	Expansion,share buyback
Zeneca	2124	+44	In line with sector

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones — 7912.30 (-108.47)
S&P Composite — 917.28 (-14.33)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average — 20249.32 (-269.93)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng — 15570.40 (-135.89)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index — 941.79 (-11.58)

Sydney:
AO — 2684.20 (+14.50)

Frankfurt:
DAX — 4196.53 (-30.78)

Singapore:
Straits — 1924.23 (+3.69)

Brussels:
General — 14095.84 (-152.81)

Paris:
CAC-40 — 2876.69 (-81.90)

Zurich:
SKA Gen — 1184.10 (-15.30)

London:
FT 30 — 3105.7 (-22.4)
FTSE 100 — 4877.2 (-71.8)
FTSE 250 — 4484.1 (-16.0)
FTSE 350 — 2339.5 (-29.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 — 2701.63 (-31.35)
FTSE All-Share — 2284.14 (-27.42)
FTSE Non Financials — 2295.77 (-16.92)
FTSE Fixed Interest — 125.43 (+0.28)
FTSE Govt Secs — 97.08 (same)
Bargains — 55911
SEAQ Volume — *1112.6m*
US$ — 1.6743 (+0.0023)
German Mark — 2.9990 (+0.0026)
Exchange Index — 104.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU — 1.5201
£:SDR — 1.2138
RPI — 157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX — 156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ashtenne	138½	+	2
Cammell Laird	110	+	½
Delcam	267½		...
European Mining	25		...
Galen Holdings	193½	+	1½
Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	–	¼
Grosmont Hldgs Wts	1		...
Helicon Pubslg	122½	–	4
Hitachi Credit (UK)	149½	+	1
Primesight	130½		...
Pycraft & Arnold	57½		...
Reabourne Merlin	*109*		...
Royalblue Group	208½		...
SBS Group	109½		...
Woolwich	298½	–	1½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brit Borneo Syn n/p	99½	–	½
HIT Enter n/p (270)	65		...
Mackie Intl n/p (20)	4½	–	1
MWB Group n/p (175)	½		...
Tea Plant n/p (120)	1¼		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Monteagle — 110p (+15p)
Hadleigh — 230p (+30p)
Telspec — 217½p (+20p)
Royal & Sun Al — 497p (+8½p)
Caledonia — 885p (+8p)
Barr & Wall — 343½p (+34p)
Geest — 298½p (+13p)
REXAM — 245½p (+8p)
Ranger — 573¼p (+17p)

FALLS:
Johnston — 385p (-65p)
Southampton — 87p (-7p)
JJB Sports — 468p (-26p)
Prudential — 586p (-28p)
Lloyds TSB — 677p (-30p)
Ladbroke — 264p (-9½p)
Rolls-Royce — 224p (-8p)
Abbey Ntl — 862½p (-29p)
Nat West — 866½p (-27p)
Stanley Leisure — 301½p (-9p)
GKN — 999½p (-27p)
Cantab Pharms — 765p (-20p)
Slough Estates — 328½p (-8p)
Smith WH — 368½p (-8½p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Bye bye Bonfield

SIR Peter Bonfield seems to be digging his own grave. His lawyers have been scouring the MCI merger agreement for loopholes but he might as well call them off. The deal with MCI was framed as a merger, not a hostile takeover. BT snuggled up to the American company, known for its ruthless pursuit of growth, because it hoped that MCI would deliver the US market on a plate. If BT needs the threat of litigation to rescue its position, the American venture is already doomed.

The signs of panic are all there: threats to remove MCI directors, quarrels about who knew what and when. Meanwhile the stock price of both companies continues to provide a damning but probably accurate judgment of the affair. After another fall in the BT share price, the value of its offer is still almost 20 per cent higher than market worth of MCI.

BT could fall further but some fund managers still believe the American strategy holds long-term opportunities, ignoring the clear warnings from MCI that growth in its core business is slowing. Operating income is *expected to be $100 million* less in the current year and lower again next year. There are real dangers in the deregulation of the US market which were apparent even a year ago. While MCI spends billions attempting to break down the barriers to local networks, it faces competition from "baby Bells" as they compete in long distance traffic.

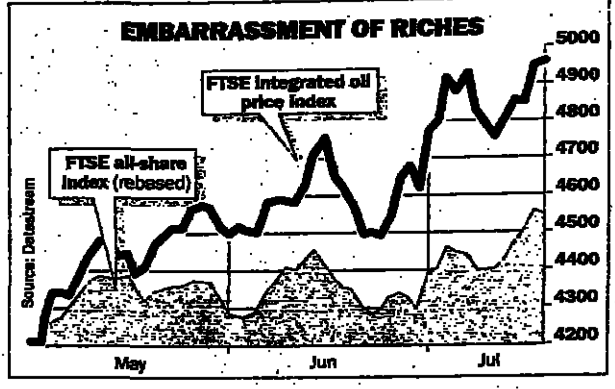
The simple rule is: he who is closest to the customer wins the prize. BT has exploited that advantage mercilessly in defending its patch in the UK. Why did Sir Peter not expect the same battle in the US? If BT cannot escape from this deal, Sir Peter should go.

Oil companies

OIL companies were ignored in the last Budget, with one obvious exception. Like every UK company that pays a dividend they suddenly found their cost of capital heavily skewed in favour of debt. This should not worry them unduly. Flush with cash from falling costs and rising production rates, oil companies can afford to increase payouts and satisfy the income requirements of pension funds. The outside risk, however, is that another party with a claim on their profits might begin to pay them unwanted attention.

Petroleum taxes wax and wane with the crude oil price and the fortunes of the producers. The UK North Sea now benefits from one of the lowest regimes after the abolition of PRT on new fields, comparable with the low tax regime in the US waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A previous government was keen to encourage investment as well as remove excessive liability for the costs of removing old rigs: abandonments costs can be offset against tax.

In spite of a weaker oil price, the industry's returns are soaring and cashflow is strong. At the end of March, Shell had some £9 billion of cash on deposit while BP, too, is seeing its debt levels *tumble. Shell is* keen to raise its returns and the removal of the dividend tax credit gives it another reason to gear its balance sheet. But if it chooses not to slim down, it may find governments here and abroad happy to oblige.



Barr & Wallace

TRUST Motor Group may not be the most obvious name for a company that sells secondhand cars, but at least it more accurately reflects the new-look Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust. Coach holidays and motor dealerships have always sat rather uneasily under the BWAT umbrella.

The sale of the Wallace Arnold coach business to *management for £41.8 million* is an impressive price; earlier this year it had all but accepted a £35 million offer from its rival Shearings.

The company's shares were languishing at the beginning of this year, but yesterday's 34p rise to 343½p completes an impressive run since a deal was first mooted in March. Yesterday's announcement was accompanied by news of a 120p-per-share special dividend, and the company expects the share price to drift back to where it started the year.

While there were suggestions of a further handout down the line, a question mark remains over Trust's future. Clearly, a bid from a rival dealership is a possibility although hostile takeovers are rare in a world controlled by car manufacturers, and while BWAT sells a lot of used cars, the margins on its Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot franchises remain painfully thin which provides little reason to chase the shares.

British Airways

THERE is some sort of irony in plans by the world's favourite airline to invest in Iberia. Once a joke airline, Iberia received a cash injection of Pta 87 billion two years ago in order to keep insolvency at bay and pay for mass redundancies. BA has always argued that state aid to airlines was the commercial equivalent of offering drugs to children. However, BA now seems to be prepared to invest its own money in this subsidy-ridden carrier to secure a code-sharing agreement which could be extended to American Airlines, should the alliance with the US airline ever be consummated.

Iberia is now profitable albeit on a downward trend in the first five months of this year. The Spanish Government wants to privatise the company but to give the sell-off credibility, the airline needed to be part of a wider *network and, sensibly, the* government saw an investment by a foreign airline as a precondition to code-sharing.

Iberia will benefit from a link with BA — the Spanish carrier has a large network in Latin America which BA lacks. Code-sharing should funnel BA passengers on to Iberia's Latin American flights from Heathrow via Madrid. However, it is difficult to see what BA gains barring a few destinations, it owtherwise lacked. Hardly worth an equity stake.

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COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1004-980	Sep	1110-1107
Sep	1015-1014	Dec	1119-1118
Dec	1047-1046	Mar	1135-1133
Mar	1068-1067	May	1148-1145
May	1083-1081		
Jul	1095-1094		Volume: 2732

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1593-1590	Mar	1545 SLR
Sep	1619-1610	May	1482 BID
Nov	1607 SLR	Jul	unq
Jan	1575-1565		Volume: 2752

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	319.9-18.0
Spot: unq		Aug	316.5-13.0
Oct	321.5-21.2	Oct	307.5-03.5
Dec	318.0-17.1	Dec	308.5-02.5
Mar	320.0-19.0		Volume: 1856

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	84.30	105.66	97.47
(+/-)	-6.76	-13.37	-3.65
Eng/Wales:	84.32	105.99	96.49
(+/-)	-6.78	-13.45	-4.55
(%)	-3.0	+10.0	+16.0
Scotland:	81.80	104.18	101.97
(+/-)	-2.70	-12.35	+0.57
(%)	n/c	+39.0	-9.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.40	-0.50
Brent 15 day (Sep)	18.30	-0.45
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.35	-0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	19.60	-0.60
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	19.65	-0.50

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	196 (+2)	197 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	165 (-1)	166 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (+1)	87 (+1)
Naphtha	187 (+6)	191 (+8)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	163.25-63.50	Nov	169.50-69.75
Sep	165.25-65.50	Dec	171.25-71.50
Oct	167.50-68.00		Vol: 11849

BRENT (6.00pm)

Sep	18.27-18.29	Dec	18.47-18.54
Oct	18.32-18.37	Jan	n/a
Nov	n/a		Vol: 30264

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	82.00	Sep	77.50
Nov	84.00	Nov	90.00
Jan	86.25	Jan	82.00
Mar	88.25	Mar	83.75
May	90.25	May	85.00
Volume: 462		Volume: 90	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	45.0
Mar		70.0
Apr	79.0	81.0
		Volume: 116

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kl)
Aug — 62.00-62.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 97	1355	1348	1350
Aug 97	1330	1315	1315
Sep 97	1340	1330	1333
Oct 97	1453	1445	1445
Vol: 491 lots		Open interest: 3615	

Index 1368 (-4)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2415.0-2416.0	2293.0-2294.0	2023175
Lead ($/tonne)	635.50-636.00	646.00-646.50	211075
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1513.0-1514.0	1514.0-1515.0	967125
Tin ($/tonne)	5385.0-5390.0	5439.0-5440.0	22560
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1553.5-1554.5	1579.0-1580.0	2247275
Nickel ($/tonne)	6670.0-6675.0	6810.0-6820.0	77424

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom	420	39½	47	52	10	16½	20
(*444½)	460	17½	25½	31½	29½	33	39½
ASDA	140	11½	15½	18	4½	6	8
(*147½)	160	3	6½	9	16	17	18½
Boots	800	47	69½	80½	26	34	38
(*814)	850	23½	45	55	50½	58½	63
Br Airways	650	58	71	84	15	21½	26½
(*683)	700	29	43	56½	35½	43½	49
BP	800	43	57½	73½	24	35	45½
(*812)	850	20½	39½	49½	51½	61½	68
Br Steel	140	19	22	24	3	5½	7½
(*154½)	160	7	11	13	10½	14	14½
C & W	600	47	62½	77	24½	33	38
(*612½)	650	24½	39	53	52½	59½	64
CU	650	60½	81½	91½	32	42	52
(*681)	700	37	57	67	59	67	78
ICI	900	58	82½	93½	33½	45	58½
(*922½)	950	34½	57½	69	60½	71	84½
Land Sec	900	57½	71½	88	15	22	26½
(*927½)	950	29	44	59	38	44½	48½
M & S	550	53	63	75	13	17½	20½
(*584)	600	24	35	46½	32½	38	42
Nat West	850	73½	107½	119	53	75½	88½
(*866)	900	51½	83½	96	80	101½	115
Safeway plc	360	38	46½	53½	7	12	15
(*387)	390	19	28½	36½	18	24	27½
Sainsbury	420	28½	38	46½	15½	20½	24
(*428½)	460	11½	20½	28	39½	42	45½
Shell	417	27½	37½	—	11½	18½	—
(*429)	433	19	28½	—	18	25	—
SmKl Bch	1150	80	123½	146	33½	50	62½
(*1194½)	1200	62½	97	120	56	73½	85
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	2100	116	181	213½	78	95	119½
(*2124)	2200	71½	130	163	131	145½	169
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	500	42½	50	66	25	31½	43
(*520½)	550	22½	37	43½	54	59½	71
Vodafone	300	22	30½	36	12	17½	20
(*307)	330	9	17	22½	28½	33½	36
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	600	28	46½	55	12½	23½	25½
(*617½)	650	8	25½	30½	42	51	52
Ladbroke	260	12	20	26	7	13½	15
(*263½)	280	4½	11½	17	19	24½	26
Utd Bisc	200	11½	17½	22½	3½	8½	9½
(*207)	220	2½	8½	13½	14½	19	28½

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	550	56½	66	77½	7	12½	16½
(*591)	600	25½	35½	47½	25½	32	36
Thames W.	800	44½	56	71½	34	41½	47½
(*800)	850	24	34½	49	63	70	75½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	180	21	26	30½	1½	7	8½
(*199)	200	7½	14½	20	7½	15½	16½
Br Aero	1300	54½	91	121	22	45	55
(*1326½)	1350	28	64	93½	45½	68	78
Br Telcm	420	19½	29	38	17½	25½	29½
(*430)	460	4	13½	22	45½	49½	52½
Cadbury	550	49	61	73	3	10½	13½
(*593½)	600	15½	30½	42½	18	30	33½
Guinness	600	26½	43	54	12	24½	31
(*612½)	650	6	20½	30½	41½	52	57½
GEC	360	12½	24½	31	8½	15	18½
(*362½)	390	3	12	19	28	31½	35
Hanson	280	16½	26½	34	4½	11½	15
(*290½)	300	6	16½	24	14	22	25
LASMO	260	10½	21½	28½	7	11½	14½
(*264)	280	4	12½	19½	19	22½	25
LucasVarity	180	10½	17	22½	4	8½	9½
(*186)	200	1	8½	14	15½	19½	20
Pilkingtn	120	6½	—	—	4	—	—
(*121½)	130	2½	—	—	10	—	—
Prudential	550	46	63½	78	7½	22	26½
(*587)	600	16	36	51½	26½	44	50
Redland	300	13	22	30	8½	17	19
(*307½)	330	3	10	18	30	36	37½
R-Royce	220	10½	18½	23	6½	11½	14
(*222)	240	3½	10	14½	19½	23	25½
Tesco	420	19	29½	42	9½	17½	21½
(*428½)	460	3½	11½	24	34½	40	43½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4872½)

	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000
Calls						
Jul	122½	72½	22½	0	0	0
Aug	160	129½	100	75	54½	39
Sep	211½	181½	151	124	103	80½
Oct	243	213½	184	157½	136½	116½
Dec	—	284½	—	221½	—	174
Puts						
Jul	0	0	15	65	115	165
Aug	65	87½	104½	131	160	195
Sep	97	117	137½	162	190½	220
Oct	114	134	154½	179½	209½	241
Dec	—	159½	—	201½	—	257½

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Abby Nat	850	58½	87½	98	44½	56½	66½
(*862)	900	36½	63½	74½	72½	83½	93½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1250	94½	139	158	57	80	97½
(*1280½)	1300	70	113½	132½	81½	104½	121
Natl Pwr	500	59½	69½	78	7½	16	17
(*544½)	550	28	39½	48½	25	34½	37
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo Well	1300	73	107½	124½	52½	66	80
(*1320½)	1350	48½	81	98	75	91	104
HSBC	2000	165½	232	271	66	101½	126
(*2084)	2100	112	180½	218	112½	148	171½
Reuter	600	39	57	67	24	33	39½
(*607½)	650	17½	34	44½	53½	61	66½
Royal & Sun	460	55	63½	70	12½	17	23
(*498½)	500	30½	40½	47½	28½	33	40½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	420	16	26	37	8½	18½	22½
(*424½)	460	2½	10½	19	36	42½	46
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfishr	700	46	62½	80	8½	22½	27
(*735)	750	19	35½	53½	27½	43	48
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	550	25	41	53	28½	36	38
(*554½)	600	10	22½	32½	61	63	66
EMI Group	1050	73½	109	131½	28	45	56½
(*1084½)	1100	47	83½	105½	50½	68½	79½
Tarmac	110	12	14½	17	2	4½	5½
(*117½)	120	6½	9	12½	6	9½	10½
Hillsdwn	160	18½	—	—	1½	—	—
(*175)	180	6	—	—	9	—	—
Lonrho	120	7½	11½	14½	4½	6	8½
(*122½)	130	3½	7½	10½	11	12	14
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	21	25½	29	6	10	13½
(*298)	300	8½	14½	18½	15½	19½	23
Lloyds TSB	650	50	75	87½	24½	37	47
(*673)	700	27½	50½	62½	50½	62½	71½
Scot Pwr	460	23	33½	38	19	25½	29½
(*467½)	500	9	18	24	46	49½	52½
Unilever	1700	76	115½	149½	28	47	61
(*1731)	1800	27½	65	96½	82½	97½	110

July 18, 1997 Tot: 72788 Call: 39815 Put: 32973 FTSE Call: 14384 Put: 13578
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	114-24	115-00	114-16	114-24	57616
Previous open interest 175104	Dec 97	114-10	114-10	114-10	114-12	25
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	102.80	102.90	102.66	102.79	105798
Previous open interest 283220	Dec 97	101.80	101.80	101.80	101.89	13
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	136.38	136.68	136.20	136.42	36590
Previous open interest 105925	Dec 97				108.38	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	125.06	125.06	124.97	124.98	789
	Dec 97	124.38	124.38	124.38	124.372	
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.80	92.80	92.76	92.78	13322
	Dec 97	92.61	92.62	92.56	92.58	21673
Previous open interest 595745	Mar 98	92.53	92.54	92.46	92.49	12086
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.80	96.80	96.78	96.79	23173
Previous open interest 1517274	Dec 97	96.68	96.68	96.65	96.67	23218
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.35	93.35	93.30	93.31	6770
Previous open interest 340438	Dec 97	93.73	93.73	93.69	93.70	5897
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.19	0
	Mar 98				99.00	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.39	98.45	98.38	98.43	7502
Previous open interest 143447	Dec 97	98.25	98.30	98.25	98.29	6189
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.76	95.76	95.73	95.74	675
Previous open interest 34228	Dec 97	95.72	95.73	95.71	95.71	141
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4980.0	5014.0	4830.0	4865.0	22057
Previous open interest 79902	Dec 97	5040.0	5040.0	5010.0	4927.5	260

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8½ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth: 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	7-6[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]
Interbank:	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	7-6[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]

Overnight: open 6[illegible], close 8.

Local Authority Deps:	6[illegible]	n/a	6[illegible]	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.61	5.72	5.90
Building Society CDs:	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	6[illegible]-6[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]	7[illegible]-7[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1.178m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.355% received: 74%; Last week: £98.33% received: 31%; Avge rate: £6.5774% last wk £6.5951%; Next week: £200 m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	5[illegible]-[illegible]	5[illegible]-5[illegible]	5[illegible]-[illegible]	5[illegible]-4[illegible]
Deutschemark:	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]
French Franc:	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-3[illegible]	3[illegible]-2[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-1[illegible]	1[illegible]-[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $325.00-325.30 Close: $324.00-324.50 High: $325.70-326.20
Low: $322.80-323.30 AM: $323.45 PM: $324.30

Krugerrand: $325.50-325.50 (£192.50-194.50)

Platinum: $407.50 (£243.35) **Silver:** $4.30 (£2.575) **Palladium:** $182.00 (£108.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for July 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3736-3.3893	3.3756-3.3769	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3pr
Brussels	61.871-62.190	61.871-61.967	21-16pr	57-50pr
Copenhagen	11.415-11.458	11.415-11.424	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.1136-1.1217	1.1167-1.1188	9-3pr	24-17pr
Frankfurt	2.9970-3.0094	2.9970-2.9996	1-[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr
Lisbon	302.49-304.11	302.49-303.11	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1pr
Madrid	*252.32-253.60*	*252.32-252.61*	*36-25pr*	*116-97pr*
Milan	2916.3-2930.4	2919.7-2923.3	[illegible]pr-[illegible]ds	[illegible]pr-[illegible]ds
Montreal	2.3004-2.3093	2.3014-2.3034	0.67-0.62pr	1.31-1.23pr
New York	1.6714-1.6748	1.6740-1.6748	0.175-0.155pr	0.548-0.517pr
Oslo	12.387-12.429	12.387-12.396	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Paris	10.126-10.176	10.126-10.135	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Stockholm	13.012-13.060	13.014-13.033	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	193.29-193.84	193.29-193.53	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr	3[illegible]-3pr
Vienna	21.085-21.158	21.085-21.105	[illegible]pr	2-1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.4665-2.4839	2.4665-2.4693	1[illegible]-1pr	3[illegible]-3[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3520-1.3528
Austria	12.63-12.64
Belgium (Com)	37.08-37.12
Canada	1.3766-1.3771
Denmark	6.8350-6.8370
France	6.0636-6.0655
Germany	1.7950-1.7955
Hong Kong	7.7465-7.7475
Ireland	1.4946-1.4996
Italy	1747.50-1749.00
Japan	115.68-115.78
Malaysia	2.6320-2.6370
Netherlands	2.0207-2.0212
Norway	7.4131-7.4181
Portugal	181.32-181.42
Singapore	1.4665-1.4675
Spain	151.11-151.21
Sweden	7.7699-7.7774
Switzerland	1.4804-1.4814

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6737-1.6764
Australia dollar	2.2618-2.2646
Bahrain dinar	0.6245-0.6365
*Brazil real**	*1.8063-1.8107*
China yuan	13.714-14.014
Cyprus pound	0.8740-0.8840
Finland markka	8.8050-8.9210
Greece drachma	467.25-474.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.9685-12.9787
India rupee	59.26-60.22
Indonesia rupiah	4122.0-4190.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5025-0.5125
Malaysia ringgit	4.4060-4.4172
New Zealand dollar	2.5778-2.5822
Pakistan rupee	67.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0300-6.1540
Singapore dollar	2.4549-2.4582
S Africa rand (com)	7.5860-7.6880
U A E dirham	6.0825-6.2065

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,700	Ladbroke	6,700
ASDA Gp	43,800	Land Secs	1,000
Abbey Ntl	7,300	Legal & Gn	5,300
Allnce & Leic	2,700	Lloyds TSB	16,300
Allied Dom	3,300	LucasVarity	15,600
AB Foods	2,700	Marks Spr	9,400
BAA	3,200	Mercury Ast	1,300
BAT Inds	19,500	NatWst Bk	7,500
BG	26,500	Nat Grid	7,500
BOC	3,100	*Nat Power*	6,500
BP	19,200	Next	1,500
BSkyB	2,700	Orange	2,900
BTR	20,700	P & O	1,400
BT	60,100	Pearson	3,600
Bk of Scot	3,100	PowerGen	5,300
Barclays	4,100	Prudential	6,700
Bass	2,400	RMC	778
Blue Circle	4,700	Railtrack	1,500
Boots	4,300	Rank Group	4,200
BAe	2,100	Reckitt Col	1,100
BA	4,800	Reed Intl	3,200
British Land	1,600	Rentokil	8,500
Brit Steel	18,100	Reuters	7,200
Burmah Cstl	2,100	Rio Tinto	4,200
Cable Wire	10,900	Rolls Royce	5,300
Cadbury	5,400	Royal Sun	15,400
Carlton Cms	2,300	Royal Bk Sct	3,700
Centrica	16,000	Safeway	6,100
Cm Union	3,600	Sainsbury	6,000
Dixons	3,700	Schroders	215
EMI	2,800	Scot & New	2,400
Energy Gp	1,800	Scot Power	4,700
Enterpr Oil	640	Svrn Trent	2,200
GKN	1,500	Shell Trans	23,800
GRE	8,600	Siebe	2,300
GUS	3,800	SmKl Bch	12,100
Gen Acc	3,900	Smiths Inds	1,900
Gen Elec.	14,500	Std Chartd	4,400
Glaxo Well	12,000	TI Gp	1,600
Granada	2,900	Tate & Lyle	2,700
Grand Met	11,400	Tesco	5,700
Guinness	6,300	Thames W	610
HSBC	7,400	Tomkins	10,900
Halifax	9,000	Unilever	6,000
Hanson	3,000	Utd Utilities	3,500
Hays	994	Utd News	1,300
ICI	8,800	Vodafone	11,300
Imp Tob	1,200	Whitbread	2,000
Kingfisher	3,000	Wolseley	2,400
LASMO	5,900	Zeneca	2,900

	Jul 18 midday	Jul 17 close
AMP Inc	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
AMR Corp	98[illegible]	99[illegible]
AT & T	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Abbott Labs	63[illegible]	62[illegible]
Advanced Micro	38[illegible]	39[illegible]
Aetna Life	106[illegible]	106[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	49[illegible]	50[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	85[illegible]	85[illegible]
AirTouch Comm	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Albertson's	38	38[illegible]
Alcan Alumnm	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Allied Signal	88[illegible]	88[illegible]
Alum Co of Am	82[illegible]	82[illegible]
Amerada Hess	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Amer El Power	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Amer Express	77[illegible]	77[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	79[illegible]	79
Amer Intl	150[illegible]	151[illegible]
Amer Stores	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Amer Standard	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Ameritech	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Amgen	59[illegible]	60[illegible]
Amoco	89[illegible]	90[illegible]
Andrew Corp	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Anheuser-Busch	45[illegible]	46[illegible]
Apple Computer	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
Archer Daniels	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Armco	4[illegible]	4[illegible]
Armstrng Wrld	69[illegible]	69[illegible]
Asarco	32[illegible]	33[illegible]
Atl Richfield	68[illegible]	69
Atmel Corp	31[illegible]	32[illegible]
Auto Data Pro	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Avery Dennison	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Avon Products	70[illegible]	70[illegible]
Baker Hughes	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Banc One	50	50[illegible]
BankAmerica	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Bank of NY	45	45[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	94[illegible]	94[illegible]
Barnett Banks	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	42[illegible]	43[illegible]
Baxter Intl	59[illegible]	60[illegible]
Becton Dicknsn	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	69[illegible]	69
BellSouth	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Black & Decker	39[illegible]	40[illegible]
Block (H&R)	35[illegible]	36[illegible]
Boeing	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Boise Cascade	37	37[illegible]
Boston Scien	71[illegible]	72[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	85[illegible]	85[illegible]
Browning Ferris	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Brunswick	31	30[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	93[illegible]	94[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
CPC Intl	97[illegible]	98[illegible]
CSX	56[illegible]	57[illegible]
Campbell Soup	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Case Corp	64[illegible]	65
Caterpillar	55[illegible]	56[illegible]
Central & SW	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Champion Intl	61[illegible]	63
Chase Manhat	103[illegible]	103[illegible]
Chevron Corp	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
Chrysler	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Chubb Corp	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Cigna Corp	188[illegible]	190
Citicorp	125[illegible]	126[illegible]
Clorox	129[illegible]	130
Coastal Corp	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Coca Cola	69[illegible]	69[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Colgate-Palm	70[illegible]	71[illegible]
Columbia Gas	72	71
ColumbiaHCA	32[illegible]	33[illegible]
Compaq Comp	130[illegible]	132[illegible]
Comp Ass Int	64[illegible]	69[illegible]
Conagra	68[illegible]	66[illegible]
Cons Edison	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Cooper Inds	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Corestates	54[illegible]	56[illegible]
Corning Inc	60[illegible]	61[illegible]
C'wide Credit	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Crestar Finl	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Crown Cork	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Dana Corp	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Deere	57[illegible]	58[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	86[illegible]	86[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Digital Equip	37[illegible]	38[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
Dominion Res	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	40[illegible]	40
Dover Corp	68[illegible]	68[illegible]
Dow Chemical	90[illegible]	91[illegible]
Dow Jones	42[illegible]	42
Dresser	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Duke Power	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Du Pont	64	65[illegible]
Eastman Chem	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	65[illegible]	66[illegible]
Eaton Corp	89[illegible]	89[illegible]
Edison Int	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Emerson Elec	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	21[illegible]	22
Enron Corp	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Entergy	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	9[illegible]	9[illegible]
Exxon	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
FMC Corp	80[illegible]	80[illegible]
FPL Group	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Federal Express	59[illegible]	60
Fifth Third Banc	61[illegible]	60[illegible]
First Bk Sys	88[illegible]	88[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Fluor Corp	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Ford Motor	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Fortune Brands	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Franklin Res	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
GTE Corp	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Gannett	101[illegible]	102
Gap Inc Del	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Gen Electric	72[illegible]	73[illegible]
Gen Mills	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Gen Motors	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	193[illegible]	194[illegible]
Gen Signal	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Genuine Parts	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Georgia Pac	93[illegible]	94
Gillette	98[illegible]	101[illegible]
Glaxo Wellc ADR	44[illegible]	45[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26[illegible]	27[illegible]
Halliburton	88[illegible]	87[illegible]
Harcourt General	48	47[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Hercules	53[illegible]	54
Hershey Foods	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	68[illegible]	66[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Home Depot	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Homestake Mng	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Honeywell	78[illegible]	79
Household Intl	117[illegible]	117[illegible]
Houston Inds	21	21[illegible]
Humana	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
ITT Corp	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Ikon Office	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Illinois Tool	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Illinova	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
INCO	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Inland Steel	23[illegible]	24[illegible]
Intel Corp	87[illegible]	87[illegible]
IBM	104[illegible]	99[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Intl Paper	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
James River Va	39[illegible]	40[illegible]
Jnstn & Jnsn	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Kellogg	88[illegible]	89[illegible]
Kerr-McGee	66	65[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	51[illegible]	52[illegible]
Kmart	10[illegible]	10[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	112[illegible]	114
Limited Inc	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Lincoln Nat	65	65
Litton	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Liz Claiborne	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	102	102[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
MCI Comm	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Manpower Inc	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Marriott Int	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Marsh & McLen	71[illegible]	73[illegible]
Masco Corp	40[illegible]	41[illegible]
May Dept St	51[illegible]	52
Maytag Corp	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
McDonalds	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
McDonnell D	70[illegible]	71[illegible]
McGraw Hill	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Mead Corp	70[illegible]	70[illegible]
Medtronic	90[illegible]	90[illegible]
Mellon Bk	48[illegible]	49[illegible]
Merck Inc	107[illegible]	106[illegible]
Merrill Lynch	65[illegible]	66[illegible]
Microsoft	146[illegible]	149[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	99[illegible]	99[illegible]
Mobil Corp	73[illegible]	73[illegible]
Monsanto	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Morgan (JP)	109[illegible]	109[illegible]
Motorola Inc	85	89
Natl Semi	29[illegible]	36[illegible]
Natl Service Ind	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Navistar Int	20[illegible]	21[illegible]
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Newmont Mng	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
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Nike B	62[illegible]	61[illegible]
NL Industries	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Noram Energy	15[illegible]	15[illegible]
Nordstrom	54[illegible]	54
Norfolk Sthrn	100[illegible]	100[illegible]
Nthn State Pwr	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Norwest Corp	63	62[illegible]
Nynex Corp	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Occidental Pet	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Ohio Edison	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Oracle	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Oryx Energy Co	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Owens Corning	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
PPG Industries	61[illegible]	61[illegible]
PMI Group	58[illegible]	59[illegible]
PNC Bank	41[illegible]	42[illegible]
PP&L Res	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Paccar Inc	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Pacificorp	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Pac Enterprises	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Pall Corp	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
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Pecn Energy	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
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Pennzoil	79	76[illegible]
Pepsico	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Pfizer	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Pharm & Upjhn	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	85[illegible]	85
Philip Morris	42[illegible]	42
Phillips Pet	44[illegible]	45[illegible]
Pitney Bowes	73[illegible]	73[illegible]
Polaroid	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Procter & Gmbl	152	153[illegible]
Providian	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Pub Serv E & G	24[illegible]	25
Quaker Oats	46	46[illegible]
Ralston Purina	87	87[illegible]
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St Paul's Cos	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Sallie Mae	140[illegible]	141
Salomon Inc	54[illegible]	55[illegible]
Sara Lee Corp	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Schering Plough	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Schlumberger	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
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Sears Roebuck	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Shell Trans	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
Sherwin Wllms	31[illegible]	32[illegible]
Silicon Graphics	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
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Southern Co	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Southtrust	45[illegible]	43[illegible]
Sprint Corp	48	45[illegible]
Stanley Works	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Sun Company	31	31[illegible]
Sun Microsys	44	45[illegible]
Suntrust	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Supervalu	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
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Sysco Corp	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
TRW Inc	59[illegible]	60
TIG Hldgs	32[illegible]	31[illegible]
Tandem Comp	26[illegible]	27[illegible]
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Temple Inland	63[illegible]	64[illegible]
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Tenneco	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
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Texas Inst	112[illegible]	115[illegible]
Texas Utilities	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Textron	66[illegible]	67
Thermo Elect	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Time Warner	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Times-Mirror A	56[illegible]	57[illegible]
Timken	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Torchmark	77[illegible]	75[illegible]
Toys R Us	33	33
Transamerica	94	95[illegible]
Travelers	68[illegible]	67[illegible]
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UST Inc	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
UAL	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
US Inds	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
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US West Media	20[illegible]	21[illegible]
USAirways Group	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
USX Marathon	29[illegible]	30[illegible]
Unicom	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Unilever NV	217	220
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Union Carbide	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Union Pacific	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
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USF&G Corp	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
United Tech	86[illegible]	86[illegible]
Unocal Corp	39[illegible]	39
VF Corp	87[illegible]	88[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	134[illegible]	136
Waste Mangmt	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Wells Fargo	257[illegible]	259[illegible]
Westinghouse El	23[illegible]	24[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Whirlpool	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Whitman	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Winn Dixie	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Witco Corp	42	42
Woolworth	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
Xerox	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Xilinx Inc	49[illegible]	49[illegible]

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WINDFALLS 31

Which is the best society share to sell?

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTMENT 36,37

Try offshore for the best catches

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

A bigger splash for the pound on holiday

Britons travelling overseas are gaining from the strength of sterling, **Caroline Merrell** finds

ALAN ADLER

The Madrid Ritz, one of the most opulent and grand hotels in Europe, is out of the reach of most people's holiday budgets. A double room with breakfast will cost nearly 40,000 pesetas plus 7 per cent tax. However, while still representing a substantial sum, the cost of staying in this world-famous hotel has dropped dramatically over the past year.

The incredible strength of sterling has had an equally dramatic effect on the costs of spending overseas. A year ago, one night would have cost about £208. Today it will cost £163.

With about 14 million Britons expected to travel overseas this year, and 40 per cent of these choosing Spain as their favoured holiday destination, the news that, for example, they can get around 244 pesetas to the pound, instead of the 192 they received a year ago, will be heartening — especially for those planning to travel abroad in the next few weeks as the holiday season begins in earnest.

A pound that is rising strongly can lead to some unexpected savings while overseas. Those who use credit cards — still the cheapest way of spending while away — will get the exchange rate that prevails on the day the credit slip makes it back to the particular UK bank.

The length of time this takes depends on the particular country. For example, a month's delay in the transaction being processed would have meant that goods purchased last month could have ended up being 4 per cent cheaper than expected.

Those who are contemplating going on holiday over the next few months must also consider whether it is worth stockpiling currency with the pound at these levels.

The news from economists is that the pound could still continue to rise, especially if consumer spending, fuelled by building society windfalls, forces the Bank of England to push up interest rates. However, this rise is likely to be only in the short term — the value of sterling is almost certain to fall over the longer term.

Trevor Williams, Lloyds TSB's senior economist, says: "The levels of sterling are not sustainable although it would not be suprising if sterling went a little higher. Our interest rates are now at a peak. Sterling could damage the UK economy, leading to a sell-off of sterling at the end of this year. The pound could fall to 2.60 marks by the second half of 1998."

Chris Wright, a Barclays economist, said: "Sterling's strength against the mark has been because of the strong economy and interest rate pressure.

"In the second half of this year, sterling will remain quite strong, but will not go higher. Next year, interest rate rises will slow the economy and the German recovery will continue and so sterling will weaken." A recent report from Thomas Cook, the travel agent, looked at the effect of the pound's strength on the currencies of different favourite holiday destinations. For example, £250 will buy nearly 50 per cent more Turkish lira than a year ago, a saving of £121.28. The same sum will buy 20 per cent more pesetas, francs and drachmas than a year ago, a saving of about £45. The table below shows some of the rates available on the high street.

However, Keith Meyrick, American Express director, gives a warning against stockpiling currency to take advantage of the surge in sterling.

He said: "Most people tend to buy their currency about a week in advance. It would be worth stockpiling it only if large amounts are being exchanged."

He does not advise holidaymakers to carry vast amounts of cash while overseas. Most travel agents recommend that holidaymakers carry a mix of cash, traveller's cheques, and credit and debit cards.

CURRENCY RATES

Barclays Bank	Selling Rate July 17,1997	£200	Fee
Francs	9.83	1,966	2%
Pesetas	245.5	49,100	min £3
Marks	2.927	585.4	
Lira	2,859	571,800	
US Dollars	1.638	327.6	
NatWest Bank			
Francs	9.87	1,950	1.5%
Pesetas	245.25	48,436	min £2.50
Marks	2.93	578.67	
Lira	2,865	565,837	
US Dollars	1.64	323.9	
Lloyds Bank			
Francs	9.88	1,946	2%
Pesetas	242.50	47,772	min £3
Marks	2.941	579.3	
Lira	2,855	562,435	
US Dollars	1.635	322	
Abbey National			
Francs	9.877	1,941	1.5%
Pesetas	246.3	48,410	
Marks	2.928	575.1	
Lira	2,841	556,398	
US Dollars	1.63	320	
Amex			
Francs	9.877	1,957	£2 per currency
Pesetas	246.44	48,795	
Marks	2.92	578	
Lira	2,841.76	562,518	
US Dollars	1.632	322	

Post Office	Selling Rate July 17, 1997	£200	Fee
Francs	9.806	1,937	1%
Pesetas	246.11	48,409	min £2.50
Marks	2.928	578.28	
Lira	2,841.5	561,196	
US Dollars	1.631	322.123	
Halifax			
Francs	9.855	1,941	1.5%
Pesetas	245.822	48,427	min £3
Marks	2.9198	575.21	
Lira	2,835.185	558,531	
US Dollars	1.628	320.79	
Thomas Cook			
Francs	9.88	1,936	2%
Pesetas	245.85	48,186	
Marks	2.937	575.65	
Lira	2,849	558,404	
US Dollars	1.636	320.65	
Eurostar			
Francs	9.8	1,920.8	2%
Pesetas	225	44,100	min £3
Marks	2.916	571.53	
Lira	2,653	519,988	
US Dollars	1.636	320.65	
Heathrow Travelex			
Francs	9.88	1,946	1.5%
Pesetas	248.1	48,482	min £2.50
Marks	2.942	579.58	
Lira	2,855	562,449	
US Dollars	1.635	322.1	

KW saga plods along

It's been a year since the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) formally took on the case of Knight Williams. The anniversary last Tuesday was not marked by party hats and streamers.

The ICS exists to bail out customers of failed financial companies. Knight Williams was a major financial adviser that went into liquidation in 1995 amid claims it had given bad advice to investors, many of them elderly. The company was fined £50,000 for rule breaches in 1994.

The ICS has received more than 1,100 compensation requests. To date it says it has paid out in only eight cases, a total of £128,000.

The already slow progress has been further delayed by former Knight Williams directors. With a threat of legal action, they have persuaded the ICS to allow them to examine compensation offers before they are sent.

The ICS has said that this will add an extra month to each claim. So far, it has dismissed all objections raised by directors in their lengthy commentaries on offers.

Kenneth Jordan, chairman of the Knight Williams Investors' Action Group of disgruntled investors, claims the directors are "disgracefully" obstructing the clean-up operation, increasing the risk of elderly claimants dying before they receive compensation.

The group has appealed to Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for an urgent review.

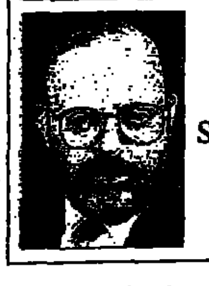
Joe Egerton, a spokesman for the directors, says they are just safeguarding their rights and reputations. The directors admit some clear instances of bad advice, but deny that recommending overseas investments to some customers was

Continued on page 32, col 5

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

Dire outlook for pensions

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Responsible young savers face a puzzling conflict. On the one hand they are told how vital it is that they should start a private pension plan as soon as possible because future taxpayers will not provide. On the other, they are told by people who should know better that all available pension schemes are a bad deal. In any case, the system is going to be reformed so that anyone signing up now is buying a pig in a poke.

For those of us brought up in a more stable society, it seems almost an act of treason to dissuade the uncommitted from signing up to pension plans. Yet there seem few good reasons to do so, at least until the Government's review has led to firm proposals.

If that review is to help, those conducting it had better understand that pension plans are not intrinsically as wonderful as they seem to assume. A distinction should be drawn between occupational schemes under which a company offers a pension linked to final salary and the rest. These final salary schemes are still essentially a benefit to which employees contribute and should generally be accepted as such.

Pension plans that depend wholly on investment returns are a different matter. They force you to put regular amounts into a pot that is generally outside your control, which cannot be tapped when needed and which is subject to rules that may be quite inappropriate in 40 years' time, when your savings are still trapped inside.

This drawback was illustrated by the £5 billion a year Budget grab. Millions of people locked into pension plans now need individual advice on how much extra they would have to save to maintain their hopes for retirement.

When you retire, the proceeds of investment must eventually be converted into an annuity that dies with the named beneficiaries. That makes it an exceptionally inflexible vehicle for people's main savings and ensures that those savings cannot be passed on to future generations.

This basic package is so unattractive that few sensible folk, let alone the feckless, would sign up. To meet public policy objectives, exceptional incentives have long been offered. The main attraction has been the tax regime, which relieves contributions and investment returns, allowing savings to roll up before pensions are taxed as income. Employees usually have another huge incentive. Their employer makes a parallel contribution that cannot be taken as pay.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, says that the first objective of her pensions review is to establish a "sustainable consensus". The essential in any such consensus is for the three main parties to commit themselves to a stable regime of tax incentives.

No such consensus is available. The Chancellor is unlikely to restore the dividend credits he is abolishing. The Tories went into the last election with a plan to abolish tax relief on contributions, the bright idea of the new Shadow Chancellor. Barring big changes of heart, future savers can probably work out for themselves an unspoken consensus. Remaining tax breaks will be run down, much as tax reliefs for families or house purchase have been.

The alternative to a carrot is a stick. It is a fair bet that well-intentioned innovations Labour mulled over in opposition, such as replacing Serps with a bigger funded stakeholder pension and a scheme for those outside the labour market, will have to be forced on consumers. Employers would also be compelled to contribute. Both will deduce that funded pensions are now to become a tax like the state pension linked to National Insurance contributions. They will logically keep their commitment to a minimum and divert other savings to more flexible and attractive forms.

The likely upshot of reform will be to extend some funded provision to those who now lack it, but to cut pensions provision overall. This may be what the meddling elite has in mind. It is surely not the best way forward.

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Gavin Lumsden and **Adam Jones** check out loans and the surge of interest in building societies

Big scramble for a gamble

More than £1.8 billion was invested in building societies last month, the biggest inflow for more than a decade, as speculators rushed to take a gamble on the next demutualisation.

Apart from hoping for payouts, investors were betting on a rise in saving rates after last week's increase in mortgage interest rates. The Halifax delayed its loan rate rise for a week, but succumbed on Thursday. Its standard variable rate is now up 0.25 per cent at 8.2 per cent in line with the Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Northern Rock, Alliance & Leicester and NatWest. Halifax borrowers with a £60,000 mortgage will now pay between £9 and £11.55 more a month.

The Halifax move prompted an immediate response from the Nationwide, which pushed its rate up 0.35 per cent to 7.85 per cent. Britain's largest building society had held off a move after the rate rise last month. Although keen to maintain a gap between itself and the banks it had found a 0.6 per cent differential an increasing strain.

These developments restored equlibrium to a market which has got used to the rule of thumb that says mutuals offer better deals. With Chelsea Building Society adding 0.35 per cent to its variable rate this week there are now four large building societies at 7.95 per cent (Birmingham Midshires, Lambeth and Portman are the others). Some mutuals are to stay just below this although it makes little difference to their borrowers' pockets. The Scarborough, for instance, offers 7.94 per cent, a monthly saving of 46p if you have a £60,000 mortgage.

The Nationwide and Principality are at 7.35 and National Counties at 7.39. If you are looking for the lowest of the low try Penrith (01768 863 675), which has a 6.99 per cent variable rate but restricts loans to 75 per cent LTV (loan to value) for borrowers outside Cumbria. Staffordshire Railway offers a base rate of 7.1 per cent and lends in England and Wales.

Many borrowers do not pay the variable rate for long, preferring to fix their payments as soon as they can. With the prospect of further interest rate rises business in fixed deals is booming. However, Philip Cartwright, of London & Country, says: "Don't take the discount at face value. Look at what the underlying rate is and check if the lender has consistently been below the Halifax."

Flexible mortgages sound great but have yet to hit the big time with homeowners. These schemes allow borrowers to vary how much and when they pay back on the loan and draw extra money when needed. However, until now, they have failed to offer protection against rising interest rates, a serious drawback when the UK has had three rises since May and at least three more are expected by the year's end.

Scottish Widows Bank and John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, aim to change this. They have launched a flexible mortgage that promises to keep its rates between 6.5 and 8.3 per cent until September 24, 2000. Borrowers will split the mortgage into two loans, up to 80 per cent of the value of the property. The first is the base loan on which the regular monthly payments are set. Borrowers can pay extra money or take payment holidays of up to 12 months. Interest is calculated daily so borrowers will see the immediate effect of their payments.

On top of this they can have a flexible account up to £50,000. Interest is charged at the same rate as the base loan and money may be withdrawn in £1,000 lots with a chequebook. There are no redemption penalties, compulsory insurance, mortgage indemnity guarantees but there is a 0.4 per cent booking fee.

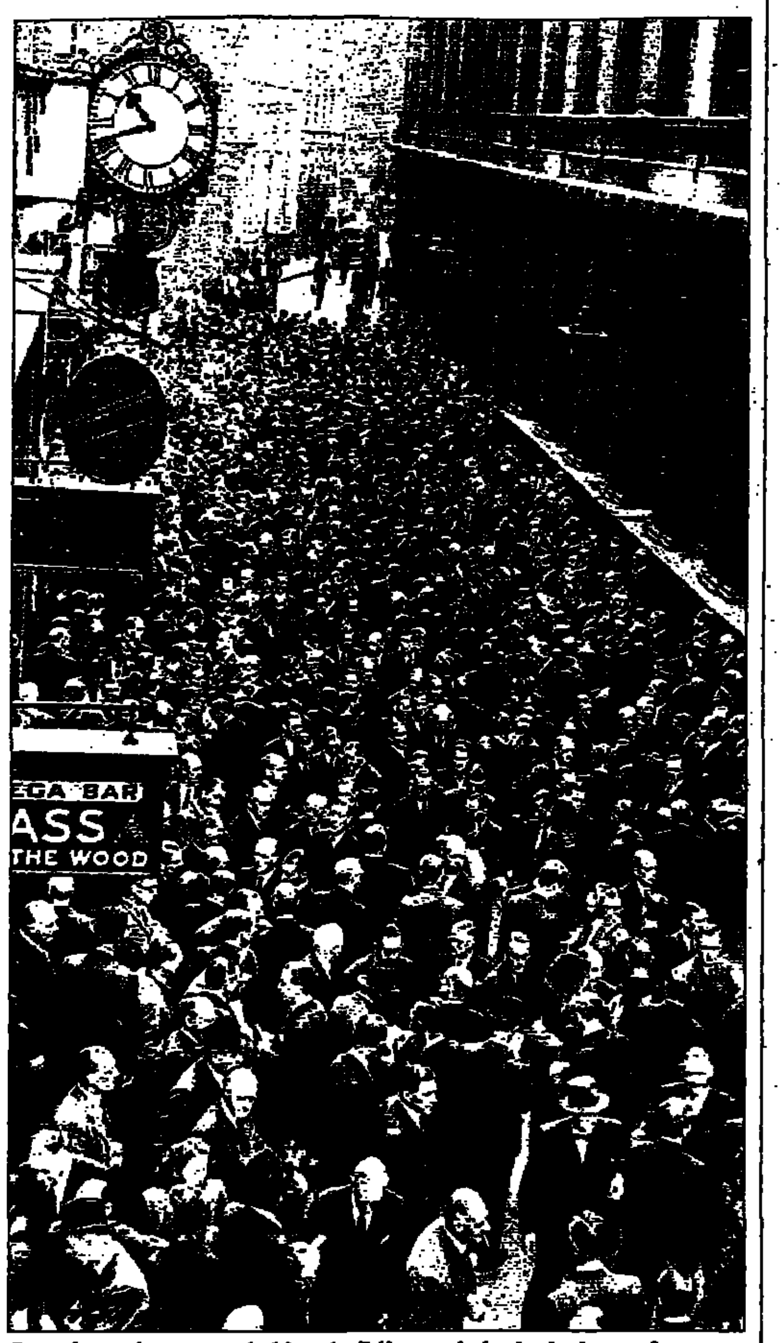
The Building Societies Association launched a scathing criticism of the windfall speculation that led to the massive £1.8 billion inflow last month. It described a "feeding frenzy" of carpetbaggers at some branches.

Although the momentum behind the Nationwide carpetbagging had seemed to sag with the increasingly erratic behaviour of its ringleader, Michael Hardern, a butler, the campaign to tear away its mutual status got a boost this week, with Nationwide saying it expected a high level of support for pro-demutualisation candidates in board elections.

If they are elected, the society is almost certain to convert to a bank or invite a takeover.

The Birmingham Midshires Building Society looks to be close to conversion, too. It has appointed JP Morgan, the corporate adviser: a telltale move. It could yield around £1,200 a head and carpetbaggers need £2,500 to invest.

Bradford & Bingley could be mugged by conversion zealots if Nationwide falls: £500 gets them a qualifying savings account. Britannia would be another target for the swarm, with £2,000 needed in a qualifying share account. The Yorkshire is another potential bid target. To gain membership of this society you must have £2,000 in a qualifying share account. To become a member of the Portman, you need £1,000.



Speculators have crowded into building societies in the hope of payouts

BEST FIXED-RATE MORTGAGES

Lender	Rate	Scheme details	Redemption penalty	Fee
Principality 0800 454478	4.49%	2.86% dsc-1.9.99	Repay discount before 1.9.02	Nil 1
National Counties 01372 744155	5.64%	1.75% dsc-1.8.99	90 days int in 3 yrs	£250 2
Nationwide 0800 302010	6.49%	Fixed for 2 years	4 mths int in yr 1, 3 mths in yr 2	£295 3
Nationwide 0800 302010	7.29%	Fixed for 3 years	5 mths int in yr 1, 4 mths yr2, 3 mths yr3	£295 3
Principality 0800 454478	7.39%	Fixed to 30.6.02	180 days int-1.7.02	£195 4
Abbey National 0800 555100	7.99%	Fixed to 2.11.07	270 days int-2.11.07	£250 5

Notes: 1 B/HC, purchases or remortgages, LTV 75%, reduced discount to 95% LTV. 2 Purchase or remortgages to 70% LTV. 3 Purchases only to 95% LTV, fee refunded on completion. 4 B/HC, purchases or remortgages to 75% LTV, £500 cashback. 5 Purchases or mortgages to 95% LTV. B/HC = Compulsory Buildings & Home Contents Insurance. LTV = Loan to Value ratio.

Source: London & Country Mortgages

Boost for CMC borrowers

The Office of Fair Trading's crackdown on secondary mortgage lenders is the second piece of good news in a week for thousands of beleaguered borrowers with City Mortgage Corporation (CMC).

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, yesterday threatened to remove the licences of lenders, such as CMC, which use dual rates of interest and charge heavy redemption penalites based on the now infamous rule 78.

Two hundred families have had their homes repossessed by CMC in the past two years as their debts have escalated out of their control. Another 1,000 have experienced the trauma of being taken to court.

However, solicitors are hoping to turn the tables on CMC. They believe its practices constitute unfair terms and are not legally binding. At a public meeting at the House of Commons on Monday they announced plans to bring a class action against the lender in the High Court. This could pave the way for compensation claims from all 30,000 people who have taken out loans with CMC. This could cost the company and Cityscape, its US parent, millions of pounds.

One borrower, Valerie Algie, of Reading, wanted £5,000 to renovate her house. A representative of Charles Ashworth, one of CMC's most important brokers, convinced her to borrow £15,000 instead. Unsecured loans over this level are unregulated. Mrs Algie, who works in a supermarket, says she missed her first payment when she was off sick. She claims that CMC increased her monthly payments from £300 to £500. CMC denies the figures and says Mrs Algie originally asked for a £17,000 loan. It repossessed her house last October.

David Steene, CMC's managing director and a former Conservative councillor who gave £20,000 to the election campaign of William Hague for the Tory party leadership, dismisses the legal threat. He says that he welcomes new regulations and wants to hear from unhappy borrowers.

A glossy new newsletter tells borrowers that higher rates of interest will be charged only after three months of late payments.

The CMC Victims' Association can be reached on freephone 0500 404025.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Muted voices on mutuality

Traditionally those wishing to draw attention to their cause do something noisy, such as a massed rally in Hyde Park. The campaign for the protection of mutuality has been, to date, a muted affair. Perhaps explaining why it is important that a financial institution should be owned by its customers rather than shareholders is trickier than putting the case for foxhunting.

The news that Nationwide customers may be preparing to vote for conversion, however, ought to bring a swift change of strategy among the mutual defence band. The conversion of the obstinately mutual Nationwide is likely to hasten takeovers and conversions in the rest of the industry. But are building society bosses equal to the fight? The speculators who last month poured £1.8 billion into building societies in the hope of windfalls obviously think not.

Some societies believe that the Government should ride to their rescue. But although legislation might prolong the life of mutuality, it is customers that must principally be persuaded of its value, not politicians. Roy Ranson, managing director of Equitable Life, a highly successful mutual life insurer, believes that mutuality can be defended only if it delivers benefits to customers at minimum cost.

To justify their existence, some societies are offering special deals to savers and borrowers. But these loyalty packages are insufficiently eye-catching, especially as there is often no guarantee that the discounts will continue. In the eyes of the average borrower, a slightly lower mortgage rate pales in comparison with a £1,200 parcel of free shares. The societies may deplore this irreverent attitude, but they themselves have a credibility problem. Bosses will extol mutuality's virtues in public, while, in private, discussing conversions and takeover opportunities with merchant bankers. Too often, the chief executive's impassioned plea for mutuality sounds more like an apologia for his own well-paid job.

Meanwhile, as every carpetbagger knows, every conversion to date has been preceded with vehement denials from the society's executives.

There is a case for mutuality. But it is the responsibility of the building societies to present it in a coherent fashion. Nothing will be achieved by deploring the actions of speculators who are acting in a commercial fashion, just like a building society boss negotiating his next pay rise, in fact.

OFT lends hand to borrowers

At last, the Office of Fair Trading has spoken out against some of the nastier practices of the mortgage lenders that deal with low-income households (see this page). It has threatened to withdraw the credit licences of those companies that double interest rates for borrowers a few days late with their repayments and impose huge penalties on those with the temerity to repay their loans early. These penalties are a means of preventing borrowers from escaping to other lenders where they will be treated with more understanding. You will be surprised to learn that these practices, described by the OFT as "deceitful and oppressive", are entirely legal and will remain so. If the OFT removes licences from these companies, they will be barred only from taking on new customers. They will be free to continue dealing with existing borrowers.

In spite of the introduction this year of a mortgage code, mortgages are unregulated. The Government proposes to bring them within the new investor protection system. But that change will do nothing for those already driven out of their homes.

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Caroline Merrell looks into the new bank's certificate and pricing problems

We're with the Woolwich but where are the shares?

The Woolwich flotation faced further controversy this week as questions were raised about the initial high price of the stock.

Shares in the new bank have now fallen more than 20 per cent in the fortnight since its flotation, even though the stock market broke a record this week, racing towards the 5,000 level. Hundreds of private individuals who bought shares on the first day of trading must be particularly vexed about the plunging share price.

For example, investors using ShareLink, the execution-only stockbroker, bought a total of £3.6 million worth of shares on the first day of dealing. The average price paid for shares was about 360p, while the average purchase was around £3,000. These shareholders will have lost £600 on their investments.

Private client stockbrokers have expressed concern about the pricing of the issue. According to an inside source, some of the 15 market-makers who were dealing with the shares were amazed by the price set by BZW, the adviser to the Woolwich. They expected the stock to be priced at about 330p. Instead it opened at 378p and then fell rapidly to 334p, as the market-makers refused to support the inflated price.

The price then continued to fall to mirror a series of auctions held after each of the first four days of trading. These were held to get rid of the 370 million shares from the Woolwich savers and borrowers who wished to sell their shares straight away. Those buying through the auctions, the institutions, bid a price that was based on the closing price of the previous day's trading. BZW defended its handling of the share sale in this way, claiming it was the only way to ensure a fair price.

Among the biggest losers from the rapidly plunging shares will be the hundreds of Woolwich customers who have not yet received their share certificates because of administrative and computer delays. Some are now pressing for compensation as they missed out on the high first-day price.

According to the Woolwich, all share certificates should have been sent out on July 4, in time for the first day of trading on July 7. Among those who have not received their share certificates is Maurice Raison, from Farnborough in Kent. He is due 842 shares from the Woolwich. He said: "I went in to my branch in Orpington on the first day. They could not help, so I phoned the head office, who told me to phone Lloyds Registrars, despite ten or 15 attempts I have not been able to get through."

Another 74-year-old from Stevenage has been sent the wrong share allocation packs on two occasions. He is still waiting for share certificates. He said: "My wife and I are now due a total of 2,080 shares." Alan Middleton, who has yet to get share certificates, said he phoned the Woolwich to be told that the share certificates were still going out in batches. He said: "They told me that it could be ten days before the share certificates arrived."

> ❛ Some of the shareholders are now pressing for compensation ❜

A Woolwich member, based in Harrow, north London, wants to be compensated for the delays in sending out share certificates. "I am entitled to 450 free shares but have received no communication since January 1997. I rang the confidential information line on June 13 and was assured that the problem would be actioned. As nothing happened until June 20, 1997, I wrote to Sir Brian Jenkins with all the details. The chairman has neither acknowledged nor replied to my letter to date."

He said: "On July 4, I rang again and spent about 15 minutes talking to an official on the conversion helpline and urged the society to send me my share certificates as quickly as possible." He finally received details of his share allocation on July 11.

He continued: "I would like the Woolwich to make up the difference between the share price, when the trading opened on July 7 (367½p) and the share price of the day I finally get my share certificates."

The Woolwich will not admit how many people have been affected by the delays in sending out share certificates. About 700,000 of its 2.5 million members opted to use share certificates rather than go through the corporate nominee account offered by the society.

A spokesman said that there was always bound to be a number of losses through the post. The society claimed that it would not be charging for replacement certificates if the originals failed to turn up.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Amanda Clough wants to know which would be the best windfall holding to sell to help to finance a holiday

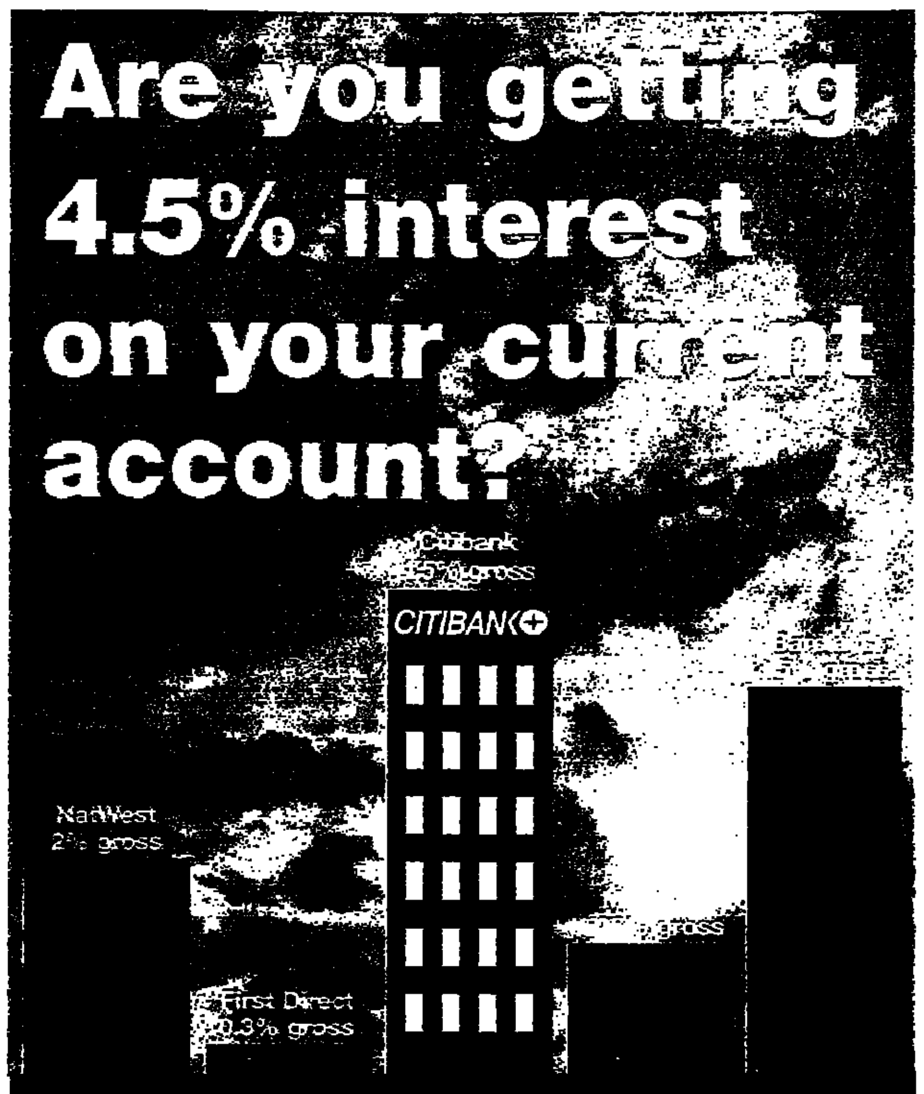
The building society windfall bonanza means for the first time that millions of people now hold banking or insurance shares. Now many are wondering whether they should become long-term investors or look for opportunities to sell.

Amanda Clough, a reader from Winchester, is pondering whether to sell one of her three windfall holdings. She said: "My husband and I received free shares in the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Norwich Union. Our shareholding in each is worth approximately £1,500. If we wanted to pay for a £1,500 holiday, which one of the shares should we sell?"

Stockbrokers say that the two banking shares of the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax are extremely overpriced, when compared with equivalent shares, such as Abbey National. Jeremy Batstone, of Natwest stockbrokers, said: "The Halifax, for instance, is trading at an 18 per cent premium to the market."

Paul Kavanagh, a partner with Killik & Co, another broking firm, said: "Norwich Union shares are worth holding on to, while it might be advisable to sell off one of the banking shares." He pointed out that Halifax shares had been valued at about £4 a share before flotation — they are now trading at about £7.60 per share. Mr Kavanagh advises Mrs Clough to sell the Halifax shares to fund her family's holiday. He added that Alliance & Leicester shares might also benefit from some takeover premium.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, Barclays stockbrokers' managing director, said: "I think it is advisable to hold on to the Norwich Union shares. There are too many banks in this country. Alliance & Leicester and Halifax look too overvalued at this moment." He, too, advised selling Halifax shares.



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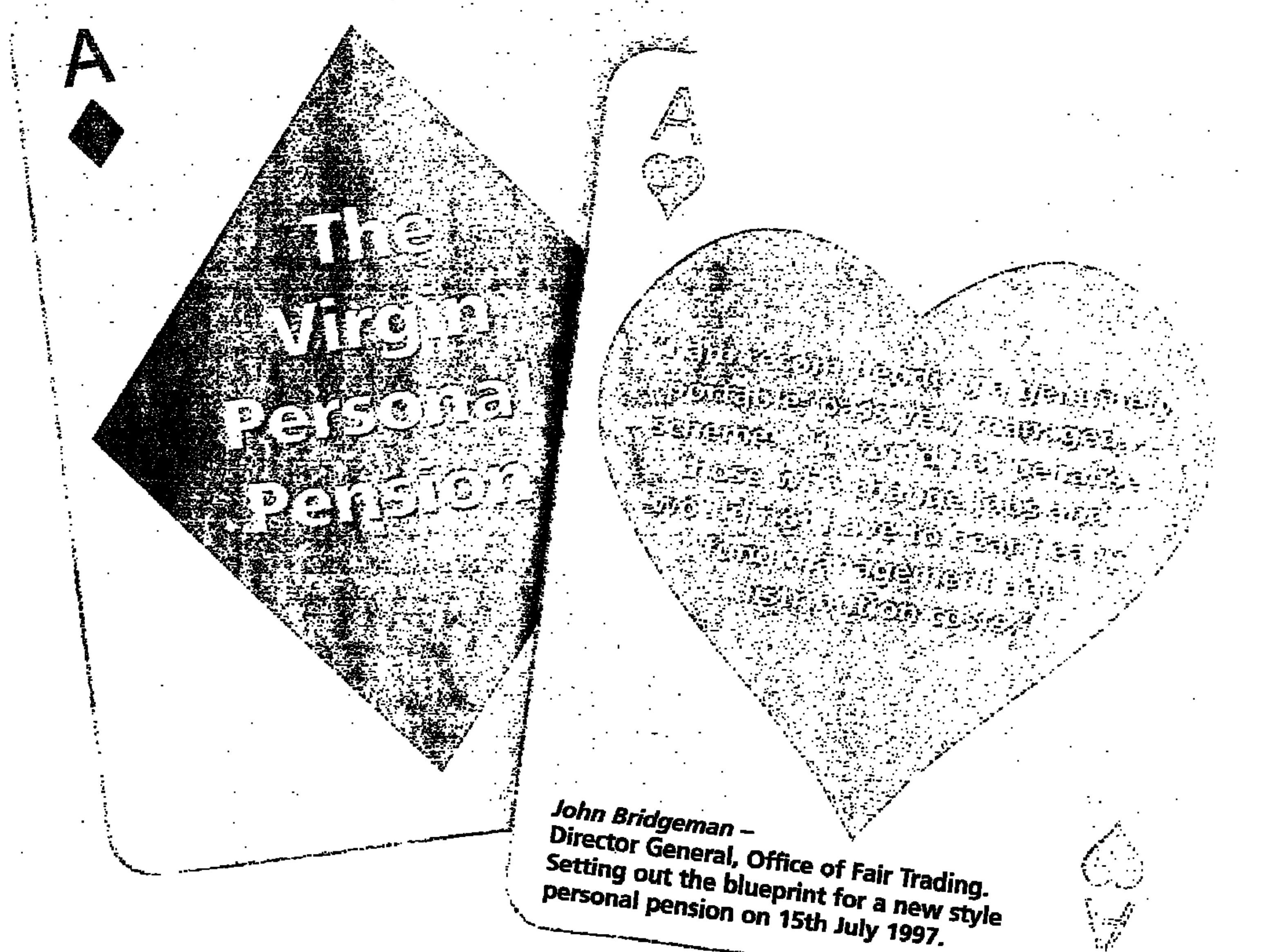

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Sara McConnell looks into a case of records destroyed by the State

Home service lost

The state pension is hardly going to make anyone rich beyond the dreams of avarice. Which is all the more reason why losing any part of it is a serious matter.

Two years ago Pensions Postbag exposed the case of Mary Ann Smith, who nearly lost more than a quarter of her pension entitlement because the Benefits Agency had failed to give her credit for the ten years she had spent at home bringing up her family.

Now Susan Robinson, a Weekend Money reader, finds herself in a similar position. Six years of pension credits earned under the Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP) scheme while bringing up her two children have mysteriously disappeared from her record. If they cannot be restored, she stands to lose £10 a week of her pension.

Like Mrs Smith, Mrs Robinson has been told by the DSS that no records exist of her child benefit because these are routinely destroyed five years after the last payment. This means there is no way of checking entitlements. Thousands of other women could be losing out with no way of proving that they have a right to the money.

Mrs Robinson's husband, Guy, writes: "My wife retires in September this year and has six years of HRP missing. We have been trying to overcome this with the Benefits Agency and The Contributions Agency without success.

"All the Department of Social Security people have been sympathetic and agree that her pension ought to benefit from the missing years of HRP, but all to no avail so far.

"The child benefit centre in Washington can find no record of her child benefit payments before 1986. They say that it is quite normal for old records to be destroyed to 'make space' and they receive many letters such as hers, because of HRP entitlement.

"I feel there must be many people losing part of their pension entitlement, perhaps without even knowing it, because of missing HRP entitlement."

Pensions Postbag replies: "HRP remains an undeservedly obscure part of the state pension system. Since 1978, anyone (in practice, usually a woman) bringing up children and claiming child benefit should automatically be entitled to credits on their state pension for each full tax year.

The big problem is that the paying out of child benefit and the keeping of contribution records are carried out by two separate offshoots of the DSS. The Benefits Agency pays out the child benefit. The Contributions Agency keeps the records and does the calculations.

Women who stay at home to raise children and who claim child benefit are entitled to have state pension credits

But no one seems to be sure who is ultimately responsible for getting the correct information into the system to calculate your pension. With HRP, it is vital that your child benefit claims are correctly recorded because this triggers HRP and dictates how much pension you will get. What is clear is that the Benefits Agency destroys records, making it almost impossible to check back. The Contributions Agency can refuse to grant you HRP without records.

You claimed no child benefit for two years between 1984 and 1986 because you were abroad and this seems to be when things started to go wrong.

Neither the Benefits Agency nor the Contributions Agency will discuss your case directly. But now there could be some hope that your child benefit reference number itself demonstrates that you claimed the benefit before 1986. Apparently it is an old style number, which could back up your claim."

Knight Williams saga plods on

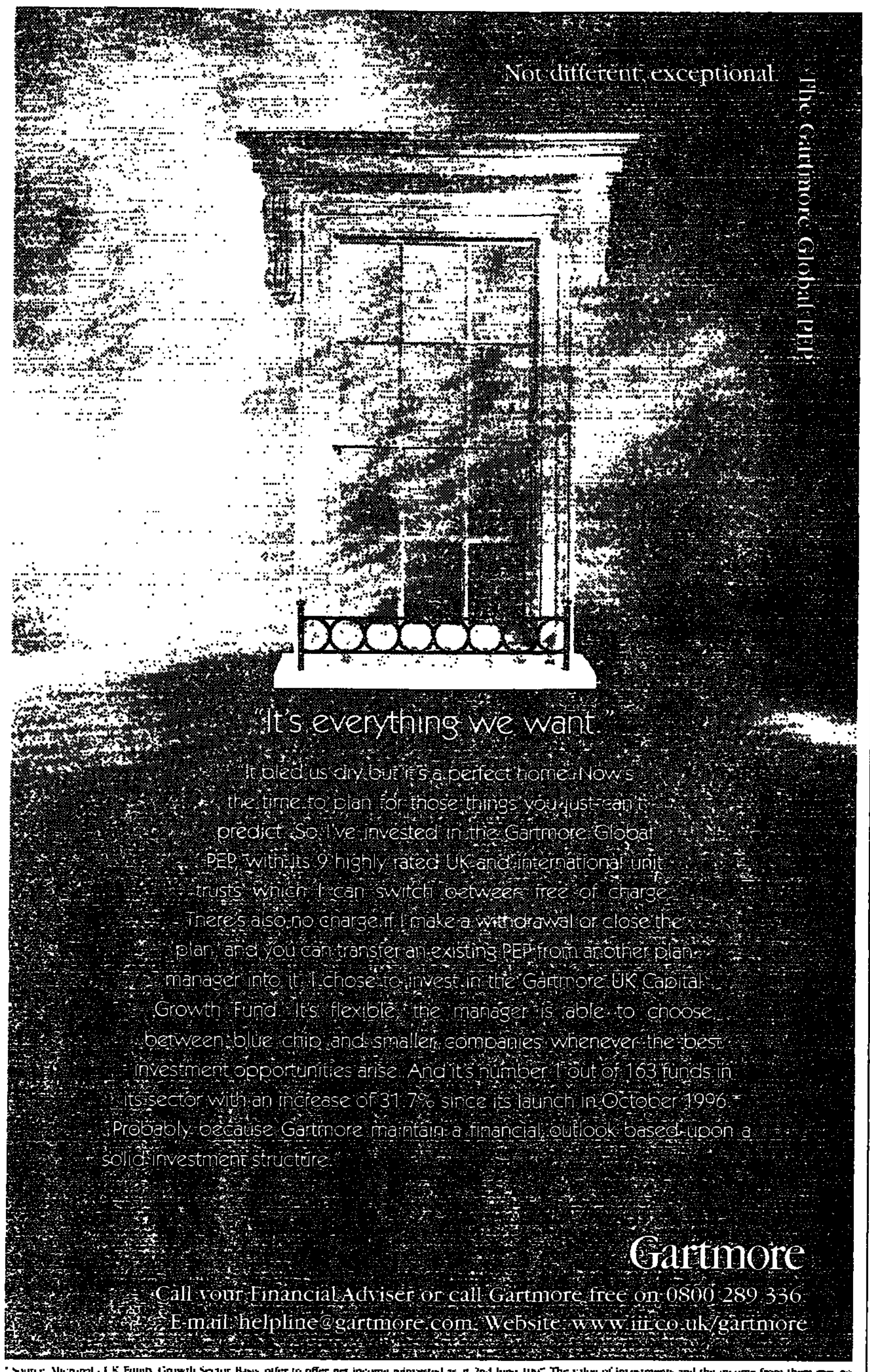
Continued from page 29

wrong in principle. They also claim that about 400 to 500 applicants have incurred no loss at all.

Mr Egerton claims that the slowness of the ICS has been the limiting factor so far. The ICS, which has to present each recommendation in a way that would hold up in a court of law, says that it has had difficulty getting the relevant investment performance information from third parties. The Personal Investment Authority has given similar reasons for its poor progress in resolving the pensions mis-selling crisis. The ICS says that a further 100 cases are now 90 per cent of the way to an offer.

Last week, Mr Egerton said that directors wanted to settle about 100 of the smallest claims with ex-gratia payments that would end the ICS involvement in these cases. It is extremely unlikely that this plan will be seen as acceptable by the ICS or investors.

ADAM JONES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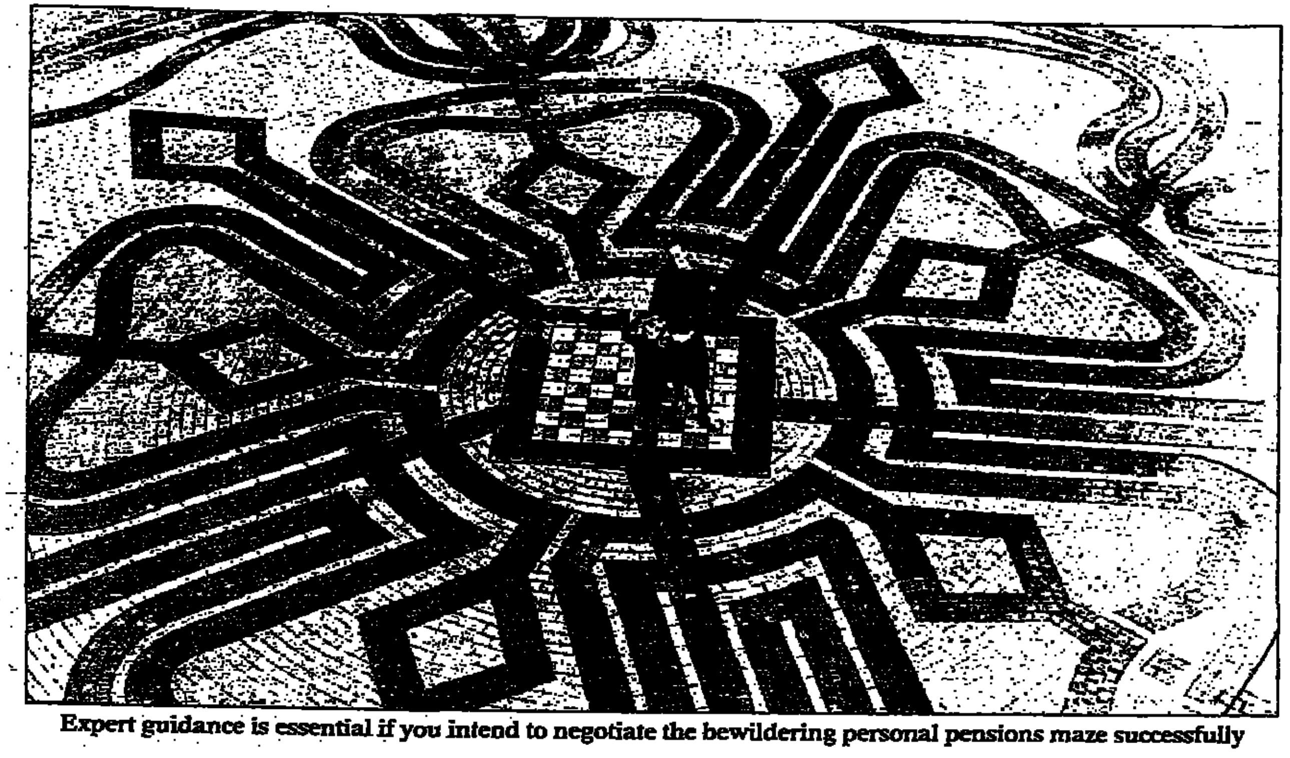

Expert guidance is essential if you intend to negotiate the bewildering personal pensions maze successfully

Sara McConnell guides readers through the pension maze

The Government fulfilled another of its election pledges this week with the announcement of a wide-ranging pensions review.

However, the nine-point review did not put forward a cohesive strategy; it also did not rule out anything, including compulsory provision. And it did not comment on a three-volume report put out by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) looking at pensions. This suggested the encouragement of low-cost tracker funds for the mass market. The OFT concluded that "existing pensions are still failing to meet consumers' needs".

There is a growing consensus that people must be persuaded or even compelled to put more money into private pensions. But there is an equally strong consensus that this is impossible without introducing improved personal pensions.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, claims he does not want to alarm people with his criticisms. But this will do little to reassure holders of personal pension plans who have just been told what a poor investment they have made.

So is your pension a bad deal? How can you tell? If so, what can you do about it?

Q **I'm thinking of taking out a personal pension. But now all this criticism is worrying me. Will I be ripped off?**

A Not necessarily. There is a huge variation between the best and the worst pensions. Having a personal pension is not in itself a mistake. If you do not have access to an employer's scheme but want to build up a pension, a personal pension is an obvious choice. Of course you can invest elsewhere, but pensions have the advantage that you cannot be tempted to take out the money before you retire. They also still have generous tax relief. The trick is to pick the right one.

Q **But how do I do that? I don't even understand the brochures.**

A One way is to go to an independent financial adviser. Choose a firm that charges fees, rather than working on commission. The IFA should carry out a thorough review of your finances before recommending a plan.

Your local building society or bank branch will sell only its own pension plans, generally not among the best deals on the market. Insurance company salesmen are similarly limited. But you can also do some research yourself. Mike Wadsworth, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, says there are three key measures to consider: charges, investment performance and the company's administration.

Q **How can I compare one company's charges with another?**

A The best way is to get some quotations from three or four insurers, says Stephen Cave, of Moores Marr Bradley, an independent adviser. You can weed out the no-hopers by using regular surveys in reputable magazines such as *Money Management.*

All providers have to produce quotations in the key features document supplied to you, showing how their charges would cut investment returns. They have to use a standard investment return of 9 per cent but deduct their own charges so you can compare one with another. Look at the column on the right to see how much you are left with once charges have been deducted.

Companies deduct a large chunk of their charges at the beginning. With high chargers you could see almost all your investment going in charges in the early years. Check how long it will take before you get back more than you put in.

Q **I don't know anything about investment. How do I measure it?**

A Pensions are a long-term commitment so the key measure is consistency. There is a huge choice of funds in which you can invest your pension but you are likely to be offered either a with-profits fund or a managed unit-linked fund. Both invest primarily in the stock market in a range of shares. Check how the funds rate in investment league tables. Although the past is no guarantee for the future it gives you a guide. Think long term, at least five years. Do not be dazzled by brilliant short-term performance.

Q **I've had my pension for three years but I feel I was pushed into it by the salesman and I'm not happy. Should I cut my losses and get out?**

A Check your last statement. There should be two figures showing the amount your pension is worth and the amount you would get if you transferred the money. If your insurer is levying hefty charges, you may find your pension is not worth much because most of it will have gone to pay set-up costs. Your transfer value will be even less because the company will claw back its expenses.

Another alternative is not to put in any more money but to leave it invested in the fund. But charges will continue to eat into your money. Fixed monthly "policy fees" particularly erode small contributions.

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Jill Insley looks at a complex scheme that tracks three major market indices

Investment requiring 20/20 vision

HIT OR MISS

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Will investors' eyes, with Hindsight, focus on London, New York or Tokyo?

After several years of strong growth in the United Kingdom and United States stock markets, some investors are wondering whether it is time to move their money elsewhere. Others are scared to sell up now in case they miss out on any further growth that the two markets produce.

Johnson Fry, the independent financial adviser, hopes to solve the dilemma with a new investment scheme called 20/20 Hindsight. But in the week that the Office of Fair Trading has called for simpler investment products, Johnson Fry has produced one of the most complicated yet seen by private investors.

The scheme aims to track the movement of three major indices — the S&P 500 in the US, the FTSE 100 in the UK and the Nikkei 300 in Japan. What makes the scheme much more unusual is the way that investors benefit from any rises in the three markets. Johnson Fry will apply the movement of the best-performing index to 50 per cent bf the 20/20 investment, the movement of the second best-performing index to 30 per cent of the investment, and the movement of the third index to the remaining 20 per cent.

If one or more of the indices falls, this is subtracted from the upward movement in the other indices. But even if the total movement is negative, the investor will still get his or her original investment back after five and a half years.

Johnson Fry claims that this means investors will enjoy all the upside of a global stock market investment, without any of the downside risk.

However, Johnson Fry gives a warning that 20/20 Hindsight should be regarded as a fixed-term investment. Investors who encash their money before February 20, 2003, may not receive the full amount that was originally invested.

Investors will buy shares in 20/20 Hindsight, which is a close-ended investment company listed on the Irish Stock Exchange. Its European Union location means that investors can take advantage of a loophole in personal equity plan legislation to hold the shares in either a single company or general Pep.

Some independent financial advisers have recommended the scheme as a suitable pension holding for investors who are nearing retirement. Douglas Gardner, of Thomson Financial Planning Consultants, says that the shares could be incorporated into self-invested or self-administered pension schemes. He says: "We recognise that there is no guarantee that stock markets are going to continue going up as they have done, and they might well come down. But the scheme is a good way of investing directly in equities while providing a hedge against stock market falls."

However, Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments, is nervous about investing in the US and UK markets at their peak. "I also see no reason why Japan should start running away now. The Japanese Government has tried everything to get the stock market going, with little success," he says.

The 20/20 Hindsight sales literature points out that the three markets have performed well over most of the five and a half year periods since 1970. But Mr Hooper adds: "There are periods of time when formulaic investments just don't work."

John Edwards, a consultant with Berry Birch & Noble, says that he has recommended Johnson Fry products to clients in the past, but has decided not to use 20/20 Hindsight. He says: "I thought it was ingenious, but rejected it on the grounds that it was so sophisticated. It would be difficult to explain and didn't have the outstanding attraction to make the effort worthwhile."

The fact that derivatives are used to produce the growth for 20/20 Hindsight could prove to be the final deterrent for many investors. Essentially, Johnson Fry is asking investors to place their faith in complex financial contracts that have left leading financial institutions floundering. The latest example was NatWest Bank, which lost £77 million — and a lot of credibility — on its derivatives deals.

BILL SANDERSON

Shelter your windfall in a Pep for the best tax break

Act now on Woolwich and Norwich Union shares, **Gavin Lumsden** says

Woolwich customers who have safely received their allocation of shares have until August 17 to shelter their holding in a personal equity plan (Pep). For Norwich Union customers, the deadline *runs out on July 26.*

Under the Inland Revenue special concession for windfall shares, you are entitled to transfer your holding into a Pep at "zero value". This means that you can still invest your full £9,000 annual Pep allowance. Those who wish to use the concession must act within 42 days of the shares being issued.

By transferring your windfall into a Pep you protect it from income tax until 1999, when Budget changes to the Pep tax rules come into effect. Any gains will also escape capital gains tax, although *very few windfall beneficiaries* are likely to make profits of more than their £6,500 annual tax-free allowance. However, even if you intend to cash in the shares soon, it can be a worthwhile move, particularly if you had a large windfall.

You can choose between the Peps offered by Norwich Union and Woolwich and the large variety of plans being marketed by unit trust groups. For more information ring the Unit Trust Information Service on 0181-207 1361.

Norwich Union and Woolwich are both offering a single company Pep. Norwich Union is waiving the first year's annual management fee and charging 0.5 per cent thereafter, up to a maximum £58.75. Buying and selling shares within the Pep costs 2 per cent of deals up to £500 and 0.5 per cent thereafter. By contrast the Woolwich single company Pep charges 1 per cent.

*The Woolwich is also offer*ing the UK Stockmarket Fund Pep. This is a general Pep for people who want to exchange their Woolwich shares for units in a fund investing in British blue chip companies. However, the Woolwich will take a 3 per cent slice of your windfall before it invests. It then charges 1.25 per cent a year. If you opted to receive a Woolwich share certificate, thinking that you would sell your shares immediately but have been disappointed by the fall in the share price, you can change your mind and transfer into the Woolwich Pep *facility at no cost.*

Those who are interested in fund management Peps should pause if they wish to sell their shares in a hurry. Pep managers impose a levy if you sell shares without reinvesting in their funds.

Fidelity charges £35 each time this is done. But there are loopholes. Mercury Asset Managment levies 1 per cent if you transfer into its windfall Pep and sell out later. However, this charge is made only if the sale causes the Pep to be closed. A spokesman confirmed an investor could sell all but one share without the penalty being made.

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Far Eastern Growth	+469.1	1 out of 13	+142.5	AAA
Japanese Growth	+13.2	17 out of 74	+16.6	AA
European Growth	+264.6	3 out of 5	+108.4	–
UK Growth	+395.6	1 out of 26	+110.6	AAA
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Gavin Lumsden

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Regular income and capital growth make an odd couple

The abolition of dividend tax credit will hit ordinary taxpayers, says Gavin Lumsden

Investors, large and small, are still coming to terms with the new era ushered in by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in his Budget three weeks ago. Each day new repercussions emerge of his single most important measure, the abolition of the dividend tax credit.

By abolishing tax credits on dividends, Mr Brown reduced the amount of income all shareholders could receive from equities by 20 per cent. Pension funds and companies have had to start paying the tax immediately, while private investors and personal equity plan holders, who have enjoyed a decade of tax breaks, have been given a two-year reprieve.

At a stroke, Mr Brown polarised the entire investment world into two groups, with opposing aims, those seeking to grow their capital and those wanting a regular income from their assets. While the former's best bet over the long term remains to stay in equities, the situation is more complex for income seekers. By taxing the income from equities, the Chancellor has made gilts and bonds more attractive than ever before. Gilts and bonds are basically IOUs issued by the Government and companies that pay fixed levels of interest to investors who lend them money. At the end of the loan they return the money to investors. The income, or yield, from gilts and bonds was untouched by the Chancellor and is one of the reasons they are coming back in favour. Any capital growth is also free of capital gains tax.

Fund managers, like *The Odd Couple*, are having to reach a fresh accommodation

This is a sea change for investors, likely to reverse decades of investor behaviour. Unlike their European and American counterparts, UK investors have traditionally shied away from bonds as they have seen their returns annihilated by inflation.

We asked a number of analysts what strategies they are now adopting to cope with the new environment.

Bill Mott, manager of the Credit Suisse Income unit trust, says that over the next year he plans to increase his investment in income yielding bonds and convertibles to 25 per cent of his portfolio. The remainder will go in shares in companies he thinks will provide capital growth. He recommends investors do the same. "Instead of leaving £50,000 in an equity income fund put £20,000 in a growth fund and £30,000 in gilts and bonds." Dr Mott says the abolition of the dividend tax credit is part of the Labour Government's strategy to create a long-term investment culture in the UK. "The Government's philosophy is that companies should reinvest in their business not issue dividends to investors. They want investors to invest long term and get their growth free of capital gains tax in return. By definition, income investors, who are buying a stock because it is temporarily at a 25 per cent yield, are value investors with no long-term interest in the company. The Government wants them to look to gilts and bonds instead."

Figures from the authoritative BZW Equity Gilt study suggest that the Chancellor may get his way. After years of underperformance, gilts have achieved a remarkable recovery in the 1990s and have started to attract investors. Inflation is the enemy of all fixed-interest instruments, as gilts and bonds are sometimes called. In the postwar period inflation was high and decimated the value of the unchanging income investors in gilts and bonds received.

By contrast, shares combined good capital growth and rising income in the form of dividends. For example, investors who bought £100 of shares in 1945 and consistently reinvested the dividends in more shares would have held £1,376 by 1990, after the rise in the cost of living is taken into account. The £100 of gilts would have slumped to £57, a dismal performance. In the past seven years, however, the picture has changed as inflation has stayed consistently low. Although shares have continued their turbo-charged run, doubling in value, gilts have also picked up speed, with the £57 worth £99 by last year.

Pension funds, those investment behemoths into which millions contribute their earnings, have played their part in this renaissance. As more of their members approach retirement, an increasing number of funds have turned to the capital security offered by bonds. This year's Pensions Act, which imposes strict minimum funding requirements on pension funds, has encouraged even more buying of gilts and bonds.

The long-term outlook for the sector is good as many believe the newly independent Bank of England will fulfil its mission of controlling inflation. However, in the short term, interest rates are set to rise, making cash deposits more and more competitive against gilts and bonds. Another factor income-seekers should consider is that as more investors buy, the price of gilts and bonds will inevitably rise. This is the opposite of what they want because it means their fixed income, as a proportion of the price they pay, falls.

David Kauders, of Kauders Portfolio Management, suggests investors have a six-month window of opportunity before yields start to fall. "In the past few years you have been able to get 7 to 8 per cent annual yields on gilts and bonds, 2 to 3 per cent higher than cash. This premium is starting to disappear, but if you buy now you can lock into these higher rates for years ahead. People who bought gilts in spring 1990 are still getting 12 to 13 per cent income rolling in." Mr Kauders advises older and wealthy clients, who have about £200,000-£300,000 to invest for their retirement. With this he would buy five government securities to give an average annual income of 7 per cent. Yields above this level increase the risk to investor's capital, he cautions.

Alternatively, income investors could consider corporate bond Peps. These can not invest in gilts but do buy into bonds, preference shares and convertibles issued by companies. The income on these investments will remain free of tax after 1999, although the future of the Pep shelter itself is unknown after then.

Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere, recommends three corporate bonds: Commercial Union Monthly Income, Aberdeen Fixed Interest and Henderson Preference & Bond. All invest in a wide range of instruments and have established good track records. Henderson is the cheapest with a 1.5 per cent initial and 0.75 per cent annual management charge. The Abtrust fund is unusual for taking its 1.25 per cent annual management charge from capital rather than from the income it generates, Mr Millward says. This increases the risk that you may not get all the money you put into it.

Corporate bond Peps have proved popular with investors since their arrival in 1995. Although they are promoted as a secure method of earning income, there are risks and disadvantages to this form of investment. A useful rule of thumb to remember is the higher the income, the greater the potential risk to your capital. In spite of their name, corporate bond Peps can invest in a wide variety of assets. Those investing in preference shares, which guarantee to pay a dividend to their holders, and convertibles, bonds that can be turned into shares, are generally considered to involve more risk. Although the income can be good, the prospect for further income and capital growth is poor. If this is what you want an equity income fund is still attractive, even after the Budget changes.

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THE WEEK IN MONEY

The present system of pension provision was condemned as being expensive and inadequate by the Office of Fair Trading on Tuesday. The findings of a ten-month inquiry said that many personal pension plans represented poor value and company schemes based on final salary discriminated against early leavers.

■ Investors were urged by Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, to steer clear of "easy money" schemes amid a sharp rise in the level of company investigations. It also emerged that the number of insider-dealing inspections dealt with by DTI investigators rose from 13 to 21 last year.

■ Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, announced a review of pension provision with the aim of helping low-paid workers. The basic state pension and Serps will be covered in the review, which will focus on plans for a "stakeholder" second pension and a separate citizenship pension. Women who spend several years out of work would be entitled to pension credits under the proposals.

■ The Halifax increased its standard variable rate on Thursday by 0.25 per cent to 8.2 per cent, in line with last week's rise in base rates. Nationwide increased its rate by 0.35 per cent to 7.85 per cent, its first rise in two months.

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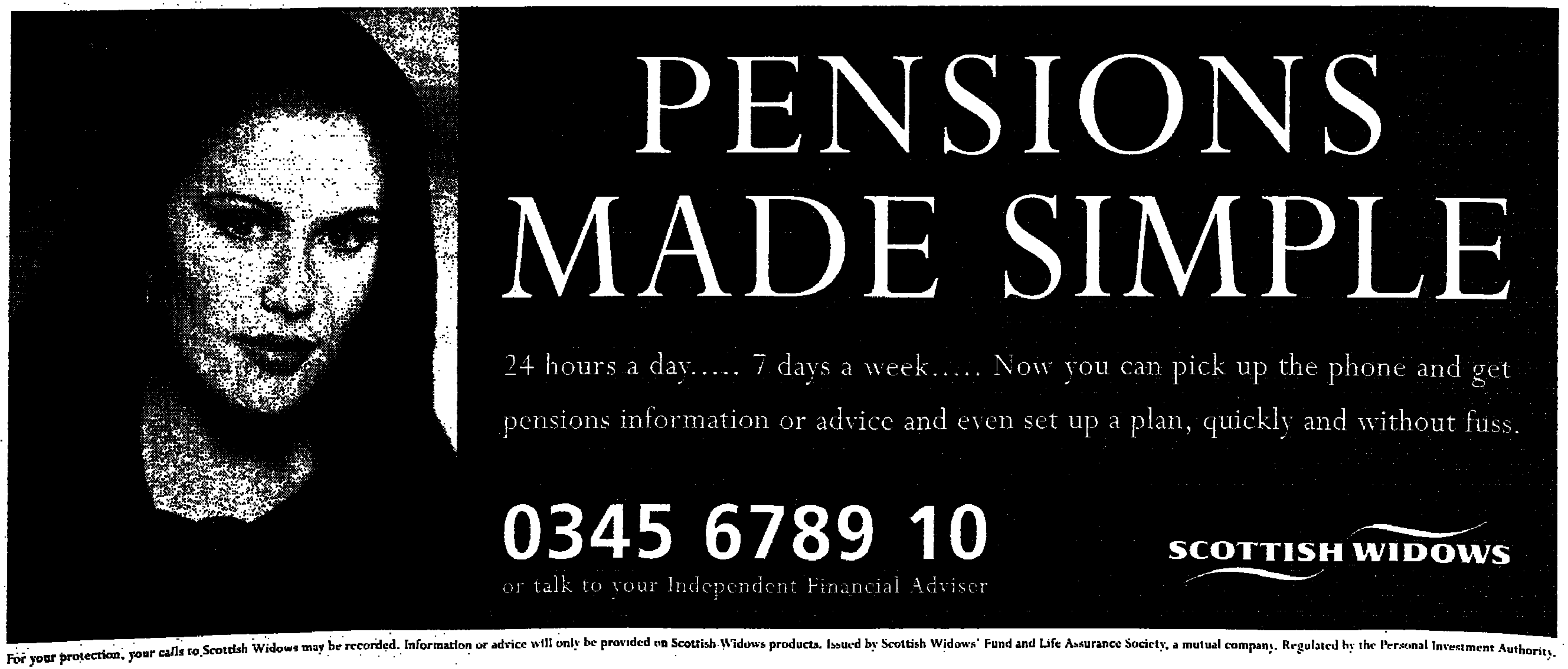

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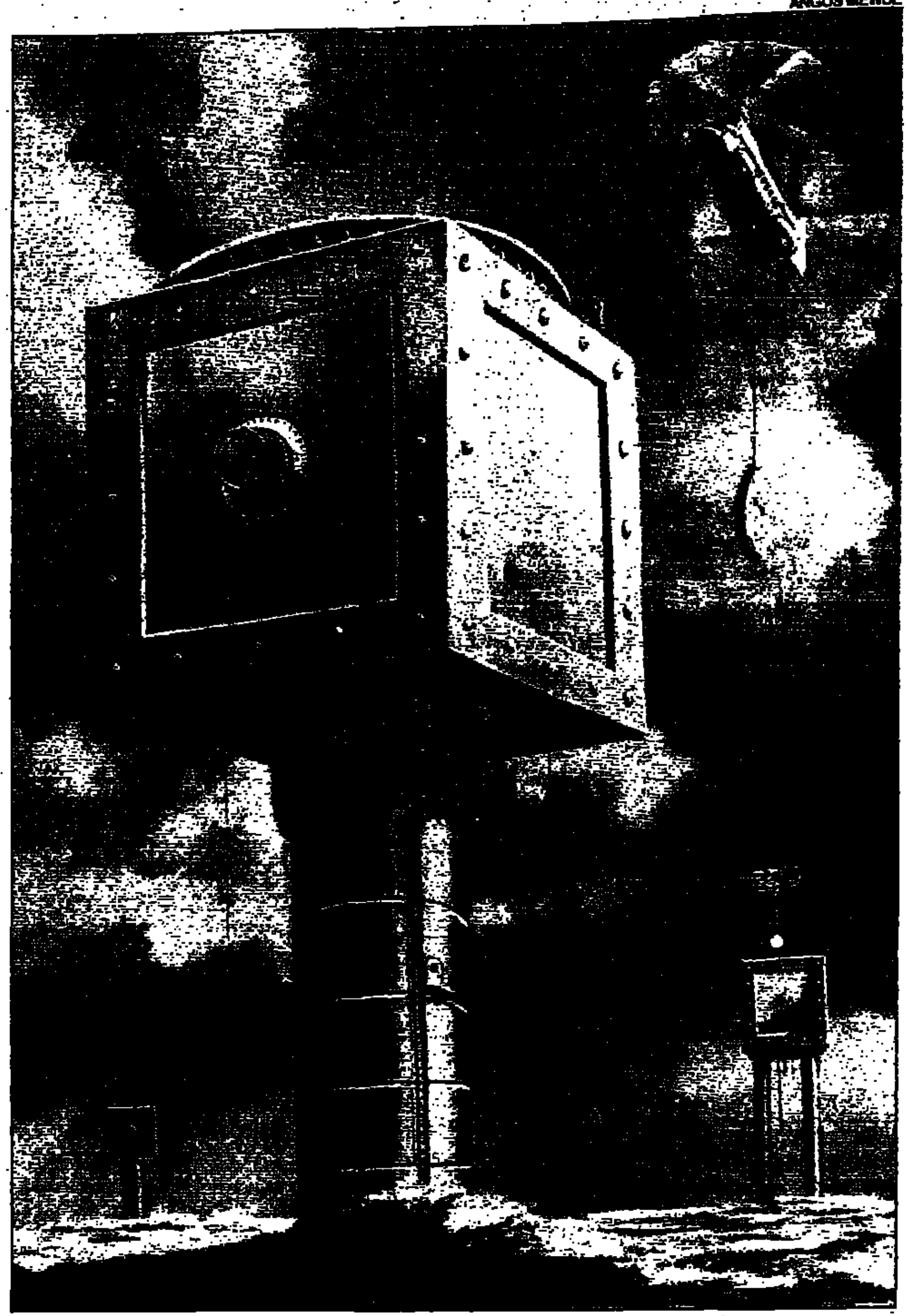
Nathan Yates looks at the tax breaks available to investors outside the Revenue net

Test the water before you buy


ANGUS MEWSE

Offshore savings and investment schemes with their generous tax breaks are infinitely beguiling. But many hang back from taking advantage of these concessions as they worry about the security of their cash and the ire of the Inland Revenue. Paul Freeman, of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, points out. "The tax advantages may look attractive but, historically, charges on many offshore products tend to be higher, though they are starting to come down." Performance of offshore funds may also be inferior and it is certainly more difficult to monitor. The net effect of these factors can offset the tax benefits. To help you towards a better understanding of the offshore investment scene, our special two-page report covers the schemes and their advantages and disadvantages. Below we answer your questions on the tax rules.

Q Can offshore havens help me to avoid tax?

A Putting your money offshore will not automatically mean that it escapes the taxman's clutches. As a general rule, all of a British taxpayer's income is liable to UK tax and must be declared, no matter where in the world it is earned. However, there are important weaknesses in the Inland Revenue's armoury.

Tax is not paid on offshore income until it enters this country. An offshore investment fund, for example, will accumulate free of tax until you decide to sell. If you are planning to retire abroad, you may eventually relinquish British resident status. In this case, you will be able to sell your holdings and the accumulated profits will escape UK tax.

Alternatively, you may be a higher-rate taxpayer whose income is likely to drop into the standard rate band after retirement. In this case, using *offshore investments to defer* your tax bill until after your income falls could cut the payment on returns from 40 to 23 per cent.

Another way in which offshore income can be realised free of tax is by transferring it to a dependant. Typically, a parent could set up a trust in a tax haven such as Guernsey, which would pay out an income to a child during its years at university. Provided this income was below the personal tax allowance of £4,045 per single adult, no tax would be paid.

The offshore tax system is highly complex, and the Inland Revenue is sometimes reluctant to let individuals escape. "There are plenty of areas of offshore tax open to Revenue challenge, and my advice is to get hold of a good accountant to make yourself as secure as possible," says David Kilshaw of KPMG.

Q Can I still benefit from going offshore if the Inland Revenue insists on taxing me?

A Even if income from offshore investments must be brought into Britain in taxable form, there are still advantages to be gained. Because no tax is paid while your money is overseas, most offshore investment funds do not pay out dividends, but "roll up" or reinvest income. Investments that are allowed to accumulate gross grow faster than those that have to pay tax on returns. Since most offshore funds can invest in the same stocks as UK trusts, in theory you can hold an identical portfolio but add extra growth.

Q Can I make use of offshore havens if I have only a small amount to invest?

A Offshore centres are widely regarded as the preserve of the rich, but this is misleading. In fact, offshore investment can start with a building society account. These are offered by high street names such as Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, the Halifax and the Woolwich. Interest is paid free of income tax, but once it is declared by the bank or building society, it becomes liable for UK tax and has to be declared on your tax return. The advantage of these accounts is that saving rates can be higher than those onshore. UK insurance companies also have offshore operations offering investment bonds and life policies, which can be used to shelter capital from onshore taxes.

Q Will my money be safe if I put it offshore?

A Many offshore investments *are as safe as their* UK equivalents. In the case of building societies or insurance companies, there is little difference in security between an account in a company's offshore subsidiary and another at a *mainland branch*. However, savers should note that an offshore account does not confer the same membership rights as one based in Britain, and offshore customers may find themselves left out of demutualisation windfalls.

Offshore investment funds may also be as safe as onshore unit or investment trusts, but there are exceptions. The Securities and Investment Board (SIB) offers guidelines to help sift these out. Investors who wish to be sure they are buying a product that meets British standards can restrict their holdings to companies "recognised" by the SIB. These are regulated locally, but are judged to be as well-controlled as funds in the UK, and many funds in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Bermuda are included in this category. However, investors should be aware that the safety net is less broad offshore than it is at home. The Investor Compensation Scheme, the last-ditch resource if matters go wrong in the UK, is not available for most offshore investors.

Q Can people living outside the UK benefit from offshore holdings?

A Those living abroad can place their money in offshore havens and obtain the same tax advantages as UK residents. However, in some countries there are exchange controls that limit the outflow of capital. Before the end of apartheid, there were strict exchange controls in South Africa, and British people living there found it difficult to get their money out of the country. South African law has been liberalised to the extent that non-residents no longer find their investments restricted. However, those who become classified as residents are still limited to a £25,000 per year investment in other countries. If you live overseas, it is advisable to check whether there are exchange controls in place.

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MIDLAND HIGH INTEREST DEPOSIT BOND ACCOUNT	N/A	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%
ABBEY NATIONAL 1 YEAR FIXED OPTION BOND	N/A	6.35%	6.55%	6.65%
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Source: Blays Money Master and Moneyfacts as at 16/07/97.

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†Gross rates of interest do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax you should register on Inland Revenue form R85 which is available in all the Society's branches. Interest rates shown as net are purely illustrative. Net rates shown here assume the rate of income tax of 20%. Interest is credited or paid out at period(s) in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the account. Withdrawals of capital from the Year Plus Bond are not permitted. Bristol & West Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Bristol & West Building Society, PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

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GROSS†PA

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STRICTLY LIMITED OFFER

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If you are an existing Qualifying Investing Member of the Society, please complete Section A of this coupon.

A

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☐ I/we would like my/our interest paid: Monthly: ☐ On maturity: ☐

☐ Please send me/us more information on the Year Plus Bond.

If you are not an existing Member of the Society, please complete Section B.

B

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(WORK):

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AJ1907

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Gibraltar

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Facsimile: (350) 71406

or

London office: 179 Strand,
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Telephone: 0171 836 0777
Facsimile: 0171 240 6612
E-Mail: giblondon@aol.com

THE MEETING PLACE OF CONTINENTS

نقلا عن الأصل

Try fishing offshore for the best catches

Helen Pridham and **Marianne Curphey** with an assessment of the most popular schemes

There is a wide and bewildering variety of offshore schemes on offer for UK investors. Sold by companies based in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Dublin and Luxembourg, the main selling point of all these investments is their tax advantage.

Scottish Life International has recently announced an investment bond — the Self Investment Portfolio, aimed at UK investors concerned about the complexities of self-assessment. John Allison, of Scottish Life, says the bond not only enables investors to manage their portfolios "tax-efficiently with a minimum amount of paperwork", but "the income need not be declared on self-assessment returns as offshore bonds are treated as 'non-income producing assets' by the Revenue".

However, Paul Freeman, of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, says prospective investors should be cautious. He said: "There may be changes to the tax treatment of offshore bonds in future. The previous Government had already started the process of reviewing life assurance taxation and the current Government is looking even more closely at the offshore angle."

The main types of offshore investments are:

■ Unit trust type funds. These are available in various offshore centres and have a variety of names. The first funds were set up in the Channel Islands, then a number of managers formed funds in Luxembourg, known as SICAVs, to sell to European investors. More recently, companies have used Dublin to set up open-ended investment companies (OEICs).

■ Offshore funds often have an umbrella structure, meaning managers run one fund that is split into a number of sub-funds. Many funds work on a single-price system, rather than having a bid and offer price as they do onshore. The tax treatment of an offshore fund depends on whether it rolls up the income that it earns on its investments or pays it out and has distributor status. A UK investor need not pay any tax on a roll-up fund until it is cashed in. Income tax then becomes payable on the gain. So roll-up funds are a useful way to defer tax. If the investor subsequently moves out of the UK, no tax may be payable.

> ❛ Roll-up funds can be used by parents investing money for their children ❜

■ Roll-up funds can be used by parents investing money for their children. In a UK fund the investment income would be taxable as the parents' income. Offshore the money can be left to roll up gross. When the children are 18 and need money for college, withdrawals may go untaxed if they fall within their personal tax allowance, currently £4,045.

■ Distributor funds are taxed in the same way as UK unit trusts. The advantage is that the income is paid gross, which makes them useful for non-taxpayers, such as non-working spouses, who would otherwise have to reclaim the tax deducted at source on income paid by UK funds. Another attraction of offshore funds is that there are currency funds on offer which are not available onshore. Rothschild and Guinness Flight have a range of individual currency funds, and managed currency funds that hold portfolios of currencies.

Now could be a good time to consider such funds, according to Philip Saunders, of Guinness Flight: "Sterling is strong at present, but if investors believe it is going to weaken again in future, a way of taking advantage of that trend is through a managed currency fund." High-yielding offshore gilt and fixed-interest funds such as the Murray Financials Bond fund can also be attractive for UK investors.

Investors may be concerned about the security of offshore funds. Although funds in offshore centres such as the Channel Islands, Dublin and Luxembourg are subject to similar degrees of regulation as the UK, they do not all have compensation schemes.

However, providing funds are purchased through an independent financial adviser based in the UK, the investor is still covered by the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

■ Investment bonds. These are single-premium life assurance policies. Most are offered by companies based in the Isle of Man. Many are the international subsidiaries of well-known UK companies such as Eagle Star, Scottish Life or Sun Life. The bonds are used as "wrappers" for a variety of investments. The minimum investment in these bonds is often £50,000. For even wealthier investors there are "highly personalised" bonds, which also enable individual stocks and shares and gilts to be held.

The attraction of the bonds is that there is no tax to pay until you cash in. All gains within the bond roll up free of tax, and investments can be bought and sold within the bond without incurring a capital gains tax liability. Under current law, UK investors can also withdraw up to 5 per cent of their original investment without having to pay tax at the time. If more is withdrawn or when the bond is encashed, income tax may be payable.

The snag with this is that the taxation of life assurance is currently under scrutiny and the tax treatment of withdrawals in particular could change. There may also be a change in the rules covering similar offshore bonds, known as redemption bonds, that can currently be passed on after the death of the policyholder to beneficiaries without liability for income tax or inheritance tax in some cases.

Another disadvantage is that the charges on these bonds can be heavy, especially in the early years. In terms of investor protection, the Isle of Man has a policyholder compensation scheme that is on a par with that of the UK.

■ Closed-end funds. These are offshore funds that are similar to investment trusts. Many are described as "single country funds" as they often invest in individual emerging economies. They are often situated offshore for tax reasons, for example, due to double taxation agreements with the countries concerned, or because they wish to have their shares denominated in dollars. Although some of these funds are listed by the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) in its monthly information service, they are aimed mainly at institutional, rather than private investors.

The Channel Islands present a number of offshore opportunities for good investment catches

Happier homes for your money

SUPPOSING you were a rich individual who thought that the tax increase on pension funds levied by the Government was just the thin end of the wedge, where would you find a happier home for your money than the UK?

Offshore investors must juggle a host of considerations. The Channel Islands benefit greatly from their closeness to the UK mainland as well as a common language and culture. These matters are becoming increasingly important as offshore institutions offer phone services.

David Kilshaw, tax partner at KPMG, says that the Channel Islands tend to be the first choice for UK investors, although some may favour the Bahamas for trust work designed to protect assets from inheritance and other capital transfer taxes.

The Channel Islands, he says, are also less likely now to be roped into any UK exchange controls, a fear that has traditionally sent some investors further afield.

He says that many investors have been reconsidering their offshore investment strategies since the election, but merely as a routine reassessment.

The Irish Republic benefits from a highly educated workforce and a host of tax incentives that have brought in big name institutions.

There is also the considerable fun to be had in flying to Dublin to meet your advisers or bankers.

A sunny tax haven has similar secondary attractions. Bermuda, which has arguably displaced London as the world's insurance centre, is well thought of in the Caribbean region.

Political stability and the quality of one's fellow customers must be a priority, however. Some Balkan republics are trying to establish themselves as tax havens to repair their shattered economies. For the gung-ho only.

ADAM JONES

Mainland route to higher interest

Most major banks and building societies now have subsidiaries in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to service the demand for offshore accounts. Customers of mainland branches of these institutions should not see going offshore as a means of avoiding tax on their interest. The Inland Revenue last year mounted an investigation into savers who were attempting to evade tax in this way.

Offshore institutions are not interested in small sums; most have a minimum investment of at least £1,000. The best rates are payable on amounts in excess of £10,000. Cheshire Guernsey Ltd, a subsidiary of the Cheshire Building Society, pays 6.6 per cent gross on sums of £10,000 plus, and 7.1 per cent on sums of more than £250,000. Birmingham Midshires, also based in Guernsey, offers an instant access account that pays 6 per cent on sums of £10,000 or more, and 6.7 per cent for deposits of £250,000 or more.

The Co-operative Bank, in Guernsey, pays 6.22 per cent on £10,000 and 6.72 per cent on sums of £250,000.

For those with smaller amounts to invest, Bradford & Bingley (IoM) Ltd is paying 3.1 per cent on £1,000 and Newcastle Bank (Gibraltar) pays 4.6 per cent on sums of between £1,000 and £5,000.

A complete listing of all offshore rates appears in *Moneyfacts*, the savings information guide. Subscriptions costs £48.50 a year, but you can obtain one free copy by phoning 01692 500765.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to use your home for capital

IF YOU are in your seventies or eighties and seeking to raise additional income or capital, home income plans may provide the answer. Age Concern has published its 1997-98 edition of *Using Your Home As Capital: a guide to raising cash from the value of your home*, priced £4.95. The handbook offers advice and examines the safeguards that exist to protect older people. It is available from bookshops or Age Concern (0181-679 8000).

■ The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) has issued a new guide to help pension scheme trustees to understand their role within the new regulatory framework for occupational pension schemes. It explains the basic principles of pension scheme trusteeship covering many of the legal requirements with which trustees must now comply. Copies may be obtained from Opra (01273 627600).

■ A new Internet version of Datastream/ICV's Market-Eye equity data and news service for private investors with an interest in the UK markets is now available on *www.market-eye.co.uk*. Investors can browse the Market-Eye website to receive an investment snapshot of more than 2,600 companies as well as viewing real-time prices. Market-Eye Internet Investor is free while Market-Eye Internet Premium will be subscription only.

■ With the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance, the unemployed have to meet stricter job-seeking rules and 700,000 long-term unemployed will find themselves referred to compulsory schemes or losing benefit. Two books have been produced that will help to guide those affected through the maze of new legal regulations. The *Unemployment and Training Rights Handbook* is priced at £9.95, and *Guide to Training & Benefits for Young People* is priced at £6.95. Both can be bought together at a cost of £15.95, including p&p, from the Unemployment Unit, 322 St John Street, London EC1V 4NT.

■ The book aimed at helping children to manage money (Weekend Money, July 12) is *Kid's Guide to Making Money and Keeping It!* by Judy Bastyra, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, £4.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.15	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	6.70	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	*Direct Access*	*Postal*	*£10,000*	*7.00*	*Yly*

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9564422	Postal Plus	30 day P	£5,000	6.95	Yly
Nottingham BS 0115 9564422	Postal Plus	30 day P	£10,000	7.05	Yly
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarb 120 Day	120 day	£5,000	7.15	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	*Fxd Inc Bond 2*	*31.8.00*	*£10,000*	*7.60*	*F/Yly*

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.45	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.15	Yly
Universal BS 0800 281496		5 year	£1,000	7.10	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	*Visa*	*0.64%N*	*7.90%N*	*Nil*
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£114.29	£102.59
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	13.90%A	£112.07	£101.33
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.45

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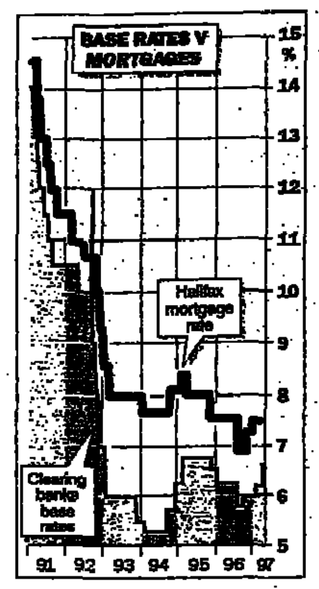
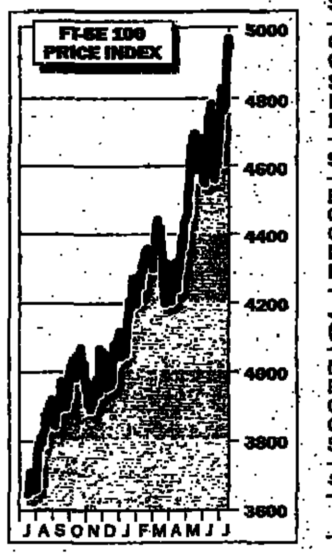
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c[2]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
10th Index Linked†	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble Guaranteed when held for 5 years 0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ £100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings Taxable but cred in full £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£ 9,551	£10,594	£11,952
Canada Life.........Level	£ 9,502	£10,587	£12,065
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,404	£10,496	£11,900
Norwich Un ....Level	£ 9,468	£10,476	£11,816
Equitable Lf.........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,875

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,977	£ 9,782	£10,966
Canada Life ....Level	£8,800	£ 9,614	£10,804
Generali ....Level	£8,656	£ 9,516	£10,704
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Royal Sun All ....Level	£8,509	£ 9,365	£10,612

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Prudential ....Level	£8,499	£9,032	£ 9,851
Canada Life.........Level	£8,370	£8,994	£ 9,878
Generali ....Level	£8,325	£8,959	£ 9,829
Stalwart ....Level	£8,243	£8,938	£ 9,722

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at July 19, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	AIG Life	6.36
	20,000	AIG Life	6.46
	50,000	AIG Life	6.55
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.40
	20,000	AIG Life	6.56
	50,000	AIG Life	6.66
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.58
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.68
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.60

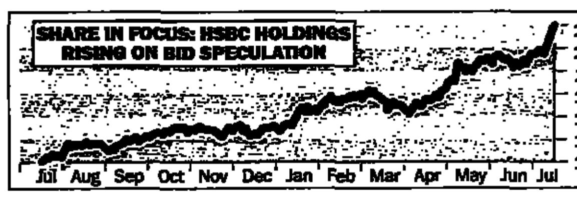
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	118.91	7.852	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	142.64	8.150	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	159.42	8.155	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	164.00	8.156	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	158.65	8.194	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	156.11	7.705	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	143.12	8.210	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	164.80	8.166	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	132.07	8.106	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	155.60	8.114	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	155.60	8.114	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	158.66	8.115	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	115.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source. ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.25	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.20	£20k+	80	2.75% disc to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.10.99
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.95	£150-250k	90	3% discount to 2.3.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.95	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Staffordshire 0800 216121	1.49	to £200k	80	6% dsc-1.9.98, 2.90%dsc-1.9.99
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121212	4.95	£15-150k	95	3% discount to 2.3.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Derbyshire 01332 841000	4.20	to £250k	95	3.15% discount for 1 year
Newbury 01635 43676	4.35	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	1.70	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	4.95	no max	95	3% dsc-30.9.99, 0.5%over svr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	575.30	608.80	+10.70	...
UK Equity	777.50	822.80	-19.10	...
Property	442.60	468.40	+0.50	...
Fixed Interest	364.90	386.20	+0.60	...
Money	276.10	292.20	+0.30	...
International	485.10	513.40	-13.10	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	212.30	223.50	+1.50	..
Ethical S4	170.40	179.40	+0.30	...
International S4	240.80	253.50	-3.10	...
Protected Gth S4	129.90	136.40	+0.50	...
Asian Pacific	219.90	231.50	+4.30	...
European S4	259.30	273.00	-1.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	422.60	444.90	-0.70	...
Equity Ser 4	304.70	320.80	+7.90	...
Man Ser 4	864.50	910.00	-10.80	..
Conv Ser 4	362.70	381.80	-0.30	...
Money Ser 4	362.30	381.40	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	419.80	441.90	+1.10	...
American Ser 4	791.90	833.60	+20.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	942.50	992.20	+19.80	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	239.40	252.10	+1.60	...
Japan Ser 4	316.40	333.10	+1.50	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2161.70	2275.50	-57.70	...
European Fd Acc	563.40	593.00	+1.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	596.90	628.30	+2.40	..
Gtd Money Acc	368.90	388.20	-0.30	..
Intl Managed Acc	824.10	867.50	+12.80	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	367.90	387.30	+2.40	...
Japan Fund	268.30	282.20	+7.30	...
N American Acc	485.70	511.30	+15.10	..
Prop Fd Acc	499.70	526.00	+0.50	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1343.10	1413.70	+22.80	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	414.20	436.00	-0.20	...
Equity Acc	1955.00	2057.90	+38.80	..
Property Acc	699.00	735.80	+0.50	..
Far East Acc	344.40	362.60	-1.90	...
Managed Capital	677.50	713.20	+10.60	...
-do- Acc	1465.90	1543.10	+23.50	...
Overseas Acc	1372.80	1445.10	+32.60	...
Gilt Edged Acc	590.20	621.30	+3.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	1328.20	1398.20	+50.20	..
Amer Man Acc	548.40	577.30	+19.50	..
Amer Prop Acc	115.60	121.70	+0.50	...
Distribution Bonds	27.10	28.60	+0.30	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	183.20	192.80	...	..
Balncd Ser 6	965.00	1015.70	+20.70	...
Opportunity Ser 6	223.30	235.00	+4.00	..
Distribution Ser 6	110.80	116.60	+1.20	6.27
UK Equities Ser 6	1451.00	1527.30	+40.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1470.50	1547.80	+37.70	...
North Amer Ser 6	676.00	711.50	+24.90	...
Far East Ser 6	592.10	623.20	+9.60	...
Europe Ser 6	567.30	597.10	+7.40	...
Intnl Ser 6	751.20	790.70	+17.80	..
Property Ser 6	615.60	648.00	-3.60	.
Fixed Int Ser 6	512.50	539.40	+1.20	..
Ind-Linkd Sec S6	208.00	218.90	+1.50	..
Gteed Dep Ser 6	330.20	347.50	+0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1249.10	1314.90	+37.00	...
-do- Initial	753.60	793.30	-22.20	...
Gilt Edged Acc	469.00	493.70	-1.60	...
-do- Initial	285.40	300.50	-1.00	...
International Acc	508.90	535.70	+11.10	...
-do- Initial	307.80	324.00	-6.70	...
Managed Acc	714.10	751.70	+16.50	...
-do- Initial	433.30	456.20	+10.00	...
Money Acc	321.90	338.90	+0.20	...
Property Acc	331.20	348.70	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	200.00	210.60	...	...
America Acc	458.40	482.60	+16.10	...
Far East Gwth	278.60	293.30	-1.60	...
Financial Acc	565.10	594.90	+18.20	...
500 Accum	522.70	550.30	+3.30	...
Japan Acc	254.40	267.50	+7.30	...
Income Acc	719.40	757.30	+21.80	...
Leisure Acc	335.50	353.20	+7.30	...
Special Sits Acc	382.10	402.30	+13.20	...
Univ Tech Acc	209.80	220.90	+4.90	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1065.49	1065.49	+22.22	...
Income Fund	1044.10	1099.06	+31.80	...
Extra Income	930.41	979.38	-24.12	...
Worldwide Gth	618.78	651.35	-14.19	...
Balanced Fund	918.87	967.24	+23.75	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1041.07	1095.87	-0.66	...
N Amer & Genrl	546.04	574.78	+17.51	...
Pacific Basin	421.08	443.25	+11.77	...
German Growth	313.50	330.00	-8.01	...
Japan Growth	167.30	176.11	-0.09	...
The UK Gth Fd	298.21	313.91	+7.91	...
Contl Euro Gth	197.75	203.95	+4.36	...
Property Fund	435.93	458.88	+0.63	...
Fixed Interest	391.32	411.92	+1.57	..
Cash Fund	312.88	329.35	+0.26	...
Managed Inv	633.50	666.85	-13.80	...
Nth Amer Recov	341.60	359.58	+11.55	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	564.23	593.93	+7.55	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	224.70	237.80	+3.30	...
Performance Plus	257.30	272.20	+6.20	...
With Profit Perf	195.00	206.30	+0.30	...
UK Opportunity	292.70	309.60	+8.40	...
Euro Opportunity	320.60	339.20	-0.10	...
North Amer Opp	285.70	302.20	-11.80	...
Far East Opp	224.30	237.30	+3.10	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	186.20	196.00	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.60	229.30	...	...
Fixed Int	242.80	256.90	+0.70	...
Cash	175.10	185.10	+0.10	6.49
Overseas	296.50	313.80	+7.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	470.70	495.50	+6.90	...
UK Equity	865.30	931.90	+25.40	...
Property	298.90	314.70	...	...
Money Market	277.40	292.00	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	352.70	371.30	+1.00	...
Japan	335.10	352.80	+3.20	...
North America	254.20	267.60	+10.50	...
International	458.20	482.40	+11.00	...
European	410.00	431.60	-0.20	...
Far East	166.10	174.90	+2.30	
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	437.10	460.20	+8.00	...
Property	286.20	301.30	-2.80	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	283.40	298.40	+0.80	...
Equity	535.00	563.20	+15.20	..
Cash	236.30	248.80	-0.20	..
CLife Euro Mgd	512.70	539.70	+6.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	414.30	436.20	+2.50	...
Managed Fund	933.30	982.40	+17.10	..
Property Fund	581.40	612.00	-0.60	..
Equity Fund	1320.40	1389.90	+37.70	..
Gilt Edged Fd	731.30	769.80	-2.10	
Deposit Fund	365.80	385.00	+0.30	...
Investment Fd	588.50	617.90	+21.00	..
International	659.90	694.20	+4.00	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	184.40	194.20	...	..
Managed Fund	858.50	903.70	+20.00	...
Equity Fund	521.00	550.60	+18.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	379.70	399.70	-7.80	...
Ruby	215.50	226.90	-2.90	..
Emerald	166.30	175.10	-0.70	..
Equity	457.40	481.50	+12.30	..
Property	249.80	261.90	+0.80	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	245.60	258.60	-1.20	..
Indexed Secs	191.70	201.80	-1.60	
Cash	206.20	217.10	-0.20	...
Nth American	353.80	372.50	+14.90	...
Far East	318.90	335.70	-4.60	..
International	307.30	323.50	+5.90	..
Special Sits	467.80	492.50	+1.00	..
Intl Income	413.30	435.10	+6.80	...
European	478.60	503.80	+2.40	..
Japanese	129.00	135.80	+3.80	..
SE Asia	421.20	443.40	+3.30	..
With Profits Reg	193.60	203.80	-0.30	..
-do- Spec	193.60	203.80	-0.30	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	455.50	479.50	-10.30	...
Equity	592.70	624.00	+18.10	...
Property	233.20	245.50	-0.30	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	321.20	338.20	+1.90	..
Index Linked	205.70	216.60	+1.90	..
Cash	285.00	300.10	+0.70	..
Nth American	443.60	467.00	-20.50	...
Far East Acc	334.90	352.60	-9.20	..
International Acc	388.90	409.40	-7.60	..
Special Sits	724.00	762.20	+3.80	..
European Flex	703.50	740.60	+3.40	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	264.32	...		
-do- Pacemaker ‡	409.97	...		
-do- Cash	222.75	234.47	+0.12	...
-do- Equity	747.96	787.33	+13.57	...
-do- Fxd Int	430.52	453.18	+2.07	...
-do- Managed	527.76	555.54	+7.91	...
-do- Property	377.07	396.92	+3.56	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	217.08	228.52	+0.09	.
-do- Cash Inv	348.33	366.64	+0.39	...
-do- Equity Cap	1975.24	2079.21	+49.18	...
-do- Equity Inv	3169.46	3336.29	+81.11	...
-do- Fixed Cap	461.75	486.07	+2.78	...
-do- Fixed Inv	740.93	779.94	+4.99	...
-do- Index Cap	218.18	229.68	+2.08	...
-do- Index Inv	350.10	368.54	+3.57	...
-do- Mngd Cap	771.32	811.92	+15.67	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1237.66	1302.81	+26.01	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	1115.79	...	+38.57	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	124.09	...	+3.84	...
Prime Managed	533.30	561.40	+11.20	...
Prime UK Equity	701.00	737.90	-21.10	..
Prime Int Equity	371.60	391.20	+4.60	
Prime Property	262.00	275.80	+0.50	...
Prime Fxd Int	273.00	287.40	+0.80	..
Prime Index-Lnk	192.70	202.90	+1.30	...
Prime Cash	227.20	239.20	+0.20	.
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1438.00	1513.60	+11.80	..
Equity II	2153.30	2266.60	+23.70	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham. GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) ‡	115.10	...	+0.10	..
Secure (2) ‡	109.90	...	+0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	128.80	...	+1.40	.
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	129.50	...	+1.60	..
Adventurous (3) ‡	121.10	...	+1.10	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	111.20	...	+0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	314.40	331.00	+3.90	...
Managed S1	312.20	328.70	+3.50	...
Adventurous S1	251.30	264.60	+2.30	...
Managed (2)	211.00	222.20	+2.40	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	409.10	424.00	+4.90	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	114.90	...	+0.30	...
Secure (2) ‡	110.30	...	+0.10	..
Managed (2) ‡	127.70	...	-1.70	..
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	129.90	...	+2.00	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	121.30	..	+1.40	..
Bristol & West (2) ‡	111.70	..	+0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	418.30	440.40	+8.10	...
UK Equity	581.60	612.30	+15.30	...
Stewardship	478.30	503.50	+2.30	...
Overseas Equity	388.60	409.10	+5.80	...
North American	235.00	247.40	-6.10	...
Pacific Basin	190.60	200.70	+2.40	...
European	377.00	396.90	-1.50	...
Property	193.90	204.20	-1.80	..
Fixed Interest	286.40	301.50	-1.20	..
Index Linked	191.60	201.80	-1.20	..
Cash	222.30	234.10	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	632.40	665.60	-2.10	...
Managed	940.40	989.80	+19.80	.
Deposit	379.90	399.90	-0.30	
Property	531.50	559.40	-0.60	...
American	662.20	686.50	+19.30	...
Australian	699.60	736.40	+4.80	...
European	883.90	930.40	-3.80	...
Income Acc	1027.00	1081.00	+24.00	...
-do- Dist	558.60	588.00	+16.00	4.41
International	407.50	428.90	-6.60	..
Japan Smaller	377.90	397.70	-2.10	..
Singapore & Mal	445.90	469.30	-6.40	...
Smaller Cos	600.80	632.40	+22.00	...
Tokyo Fund	629.40	662.50	-9.30	..
UK Equity	819.10	862.20	+24.90	..
CCM Vangd Mg	990.90	1043.00	+21.60	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	347.50	365.80	+9.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	599.70	631.30	-5.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS *Gan House, Harlow, Essex* CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	853.40	853.40	+14.20	..
-do- Inv A	853.30	898.40	+15.10	...
UK Equity	559.80	589.40	+15.60	..
Gilt Plus	233.50	245.90	+0.90	...
Managed	388.10	408.70	+6.90	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	278.50	293.00	-5.00	.
Unitised Profit	164.50	173.20	-0.30	..
UK Equity	411.10	432.60	-9.70	..
Fixed Int	229.80	241.80	-1.50	.
Index-Linked	185.70	195.40	-1.60	...
Cash Deposit	191.90	201.90	-0.30	..
Property	190.60	200.50	-1.80	...
International	224.40	236.10	+3.30	.
American	258.80	272.40	+6.60	
Japan	224.30	236.00	+4.40	...
Japan Smllr Cos	229.70	241.70	+4.60	.
European	255.40	268.70	+2.40	.
Pacific Fund	316.60	333.10	+0.40	...
Conv Life	170.40	179.20	+2.70	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	635.80	669.30	+11.90	.
Managed Initial	393.70	414.40	+6.80	..
Equity Ord	1039.10	1093.80	+24.50	...
Equity Init	643.50	677.40	+14.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	226.40	238.30	+2.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.40	154.10	+1.20	...
Overs Equity Ord	483.00	508.40	+7.90	...
Overs Equity Init	299.10	314.80	+4.60	..
Property Ord	296.00	311.60	-2.90	..
Property Init	183.30	192.90	-1.60	...
Fixed Int Ord	336.00	353.70	+2.10	..
Fixed Int Init	208.10	219.10	+1.30	.
Deposit Ord	228.80	240.80	+0.20	...
Deposit Initial	141.70	149.20	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	918.30	956.50	.	...
Managed Initial	592.70	623.90	+10.80	..
-do- Acc	896.50	943.60	+16.70	.
Equity Initial	962.50	1013.20	+21.90	.
-do- Acc	1455.80	1532.40	+33.80	..
Fixed Int Initial	495.10	521.20	+2.00	...
-do- Acc	748.90	788.30	-3.50	...
Intl Initial	546.40	575.10	+10.40	...
-do- Acc	826.30	869.80	+16.10	...
Nth Amer Initial	284.10	299.00	-10.00	...
-do- Acc	391.00	411.60	+14.00	...
Pacific Initial	223.91	235.70	+5.20	...
-do- Acc	305.30	321.30	+7.10	...
Property Initial	190.50	200.60	..	...
-do- Acc	287.80	303.00	...	...
Index-Linkd Initl	173.10	182.20	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	238.20	250.70	-2.00	...
Deposit Initial	207.10	218.00	-0.10	
-do- Acc	313.30	329.80	-0.30	...
Euro Initial	145.10	152.70	-0.90	...
-do- Acc	184.50	194.20	-1.20	.
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 235, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	33.68	35.45	+0.44	..
Balanced	33.98	35.77	+0.57	...
Opportunity	34.56	36.38	+0.61	...
Deposit	26.15	27.53	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	26.10	27.47	+0.31	...
Balanced S2	26.84	28.25	+0.64	...
Opportunity S2	26.25	27.63	+0.59	.
Deposit S2	24.30	25.57	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	224.30	236.10	+4.30	...
-do- Pens	292.80	308.20	+6.90	...
UK Equity	245.90	258.80	+6.10	...
-do- Pens	302.80	318.70	+9.50	...
International	193.40	203.50	+3.60	...
-do- Pens	218.90	230.40	+4.70	...
Deposit	153.70	161.70	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	187.90	197.70	+0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	729.70	772.20	+15.50	...
British Fund	806.90	853.90	-21.80	...
International	709.80	751.20	+14.00	...
Dollar Fund	639.20	676.50	+17.90	...
Capital Fund	662.90	701.50	+15.50	...
Income Fund	1003.00	1061.40	+28.50	...
Property Series A	533.20	564.30	-2.30	4.80
Property Units	889.10	973.60	+4.00	...
Financial Fund	960.90	1016.00	+26.40	...
Managed Ser A	725.50	767.80	+14.50	..
Managed Units	1311.10	1390.20	+26.20	..
High Yield Fund	890.10	942.00	+21.70	...
Money Series A	320.40	339.10	+0.20	...
Money Units	429.00	451.60	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	847.40	892.50	+18.80	...
Fixed Interest	450.50	476.80	+3.50	..
Indexed Secs	210.60	222.90	+1.70	...
European Fund	1056.30	1117.80	+18.40	...
Natural Res	307.90	325.90	+9.00	...
Far East Fund	629.30	666.00	+7.30	...
Smaller Cos	642.70	680.20	-0.80	...
Special Sits	675.10	714.40	+10.00	...
Man Currency	284.90	301.50	-0.10	...
Japanese Tech	313.60	331.90	+9.40	...
US Smaller Cos	480.50	508.50	+18.30	..
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	273.90	288.40	-0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	78.50	83.70	+2.40	...
Fixed Interest	384.50	404.80	-1.90	..
Gold	76.60	80.70	+1.00	...
Managed	802.90	845.30	+15.60	...
Mngd Growth	254.30	267.70	+5.00	...
Mngd Opp	270.60	285.00	+5.40	...
Property	390.20	410.70	...	..
Residential Prop	122.60	129.30	...	...
TSB American	367.60	387.10	+9.30	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1250.90	1316.90	+15.90	...
TSB European	394.20	415.10	+5.80	...
TSB Income	585.40	616.30	+15.60	...
TSB Intl	543.60	572.20	+9.70	.
TSB Intl Inc	358.50	377.50	+6.10	...
TSB Pacific	438.60	461.80	-0.50	...
TSB Prem Inc	338.10	353.20	+1.10	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	769.30	809.80	+17.70	...
Global Property	329.10	346.40	...	...
Global Fixed Int	614.20	646.50	+1.10	...
Global Equity	849.30	894.00	+22.00	...
Global Cash	236.70	249.20	-0.20	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN5 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	..	..
-do- Acc	199.60	210.20	+0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	189.50	199.50	+4.40	...
-do- Acc	254.20	267.60	+5.40	.
Cash Initial	171.70	180.80	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	319.50	336.40	+0.40	.
Equity Initial	896.70	943.90	+21.80	...
-do- Acc	1668.10	1755.90	+46.20	...
Fixed Initial	385.20	405.50	-1.90	...
-do- Acc	716.60	754.40	+3.50	.
Index-Lnkd Gilt	142.00	149.50	+1.20	.
-do- Acc	225.50	237.40	+2.30	.
Intl Initial	370.10	389.60	+6.30	...
-do- Acc	677.90	713.60	+11.40	...
Managed Initial	593.30	624.60	+11.70	...
-do- Acc	1103.80	1161.90	+21.90	...
Property Initial	231.20	243.40	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	430.10	452.80	-0.60	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	5187.07	...	+355.00	...
Property Units	3075.00	3236.00	+2.00	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8653.70	9109.00	+145.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	883.10	929.50	+17.60	...
2nd High Inc Ac	841.40	886.00	+20.90	...
2nd Property Acc	276.20	290.70	-0.30	.
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	208.60	219.50	+1.30	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	600.70	632.20	+9.90	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	289.50	304.60	+4.40	..
2nd Deposit Acc	313.70	330.10	+0.40	..
2nd Gilt Acc	356.20	374.90	+1.30	..
2nd Amer Acc	1025.00	1079.00	+26.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	240.90	253.50	+0.90	...
2nd Index Acc	232.60	244.70	+1.60	...
2nd Far East Acc	411.80	433.40	+2.20	...
2nd Global Acc	204.00	214.60	+3.30	...
2nd Euro Acc	215.40	227.00	-0.60	...
2nd Japan Acc	162.30	170.70	+2.00	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.80	180.70	+0.60	...
2nd Cap Grh Acc	167.40	176.10	+3.50	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	588.40	619.30	+0.40	...
Managed	540.00	568.30	+9.00	...
American	610.30	642.30	+23.50	...
UK Equity Fd	641.20	674.90	+12.80	...
Japan	178.70	188.00	-2.30	..
Index-Lkd	208.30	219.20	+1.30	..
High Yield	1180.00	1242.00	+29.00	...
Money	445.70	469.00	+0.50	...
International	458.20	482.30	+7.40	...
Perpetual Active	407.40	428.60	+7.90	..
Growth Acc	844.40	888.70	+14.00	...
Gilt Edged	504.70	531.10	+1.80	...
European	196.90	207.10	+0.60	...
Far East	217.90	229.20	+1.10	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	1237.90	...	+12.10	...
Fixed Interest ‡	514.20	...	-0.80	...
Property ‡	474.40	...	-0.40	...
Deposit ‡	327.20	...	+0.30	...
Mixed ‡	773.20	...	+4.60	...
Indexed Stock ‡	230.40	..	+2.30	...
International ‡	350.70	...	+0.40	...
Equity A ‡	286.20	...	+2.80	...
Fixed Int A ‡	227.30	...	-0.40	...
Property A ‡	207.80	...	-0.30	...
Deposit A ‡	191.70	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	253.20	...	+1.50	...
Index Stock A ‡	195.40	...	+1.80	...
International A ‡	218.30	...	+0.20	...
Equity P ‡	1088.50	...	+12.20	...
Fixed Int P ‡	710.70	...	-0.20	...
Property P ‡	372.10	...	+0.50	...
Deposit P ‡	394.50	...	+0.30	...
Mixed P ‡	742.60	...	+5.90	...
Index Stock P ‡	287.90	...	+2.80	...
International P ‡	423.30	...	+1.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	646.60	...	+7.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	1216.40	...	+15.50	...
Property Cap ‡	139.50	...	-0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	250.30	...	-0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	207.70	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	375.90	...	+1.10	...
Equity Cap ‡	407.50	...	+11.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	751.10	...	+21.10	...
Internatl Cap ‡	261.90	...	+5.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	477.10	...	+10.20	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	159.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	286.80	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	407.50	...	+8.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	747.80	...	+16.20	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	568.50	...	+11.00	...
Capital Growth ‡	2463.50	...	+66.30	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	649.20	681.80	+20.90	...
Amer Rec Bond	759.10	796.10	+24.90	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	321.20	337.40	+14.20	...
Australasia Bd	315.20	331.60	+4.50	...
Commodity Bond	389.80	409.40	+9.00	...
Deposit Bond Acc	399.30	419.40	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1879.20	1972.20	+10.30	..
European Bd Acc	565.60	594.00	+5.00	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1006.20	1056.60	+21.10	...
Gilt Bond Acc	533.60	560.40	-2.70	...
Gold Bond Acc	135.40	142.30	-3.90	...
High Yield Bond	418.90	439.90	-7.40	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	235.30	247.20	+1.90	...
International Bd	950.00	997.60	+0.40	...
Japan Bond Acc	214.70	225.50	+1.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	210.70	221.30	+3.70	...
Managed Bonds	1105.50	1160.90	+8.30	...
Prop Bond Acc	518.10	544.10	+8.00	...
Ret Bond Acc	980.40	1029.50	+20.00	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	352.40	370.10	-0.70	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	307.10	323.30	+8.00	...
UK Equity Acc	474.80	499.80	+12.70	...
Special Sits	125.90	132.60	+2.00	...
Special Sits Acc	194.70	205.00	+4.00	...
North American	260.20	273.90	-8.30	...
N American Acc	402.40	423.60	+13.10	...
Pacific Basin	356.00	374.80	-4.20	...
Pacific Basin Acc	550.40	579.40	+7.40	...
Fixed Interest	312.10	328.60	+1.00	...
Fixed Interest Acc	483.10	508.60	+1.80	...
Property	198.30	198.30	...	...
Property Acc	291.60	307.00	+0.30	...
Deposit	155.40	163.60	...	...
Deposit Acc	240.60	253.30	+0.20	..
Managed	328.10	345.40	+6.40	...
Managed Acc	467.50	492.20	+9.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	449.80	473.40	+1.00	...
UK Equity	509.00	535.70	+14.30	...
Gilt Edged	719.20	757.10	+3.00	...
Interest Fund	441.90	465.10	+0.40	...
Managed Fd	618.70	651.20	+10.70	...
Intl Equity	754.20	793.80	+12.00	...
North American	318.70	335.40	+12.20	...
Far East	478.90	504.00	+4.50	...
Intl Currency	260.70	274.40	+0.30	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	634.60	667.90	+11.10	...
UK Equity	903.40	950.90	+24.10	...
Overseas Equity	578.70	609.10	+5.90	...
Americas	583.50	614.20	+14.60	...
Far East	587.10	617.90	+9.20	...
Property	241.30	253.90	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest	461.80	486.10	+2.70	..
Indexed Gilt	263.60	277.60	+2.60	...
Deposit	241.10	253.70	+0.20	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 556, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	184.20	193.50	-4.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1954.90	2057.80	+36.70	...
Equity Fund	4533.90	4772.10	+116.80	...
Property Fd	697.30	734.00	-0.90	...
Fixed Int Fd	723.50	761.60	+4.00	...
Deposit Fund	391.40	412.00	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	319.50	336.30	+4.30	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	413.70	436.40	+10.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	288.90	304.80	+1.10	...
International Acc	308.20	325.20	+7.50	...
Managed Acc	284.40	300.10	+5.90	...
Property Acc	211.40	223.00	+0.30	...
Money Acc	169.80	179.20	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	222.40	239.90	+11.10	...
Japan Equity Acc	105.09	110.80	-2.00	...
N Amer Acc	247.20	260.80	+10.00	...
Pacific Acc	148.70	156.90	+1.20	...
European Acc	277.10	292.30	+8.70	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	145.80	153.50	+0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	350.50	369.00	+0.30	...
Inv Equity	1781.50	1875.30	+57.40	...
Inv Managed	1163.60	1224.90	+27.90	...
Ret Managed	1369.30	1441.40	+33.10	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	466.20	487.80	+3.90	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1051.30	1106.70	+16.90	...
Equity Fund	2247.70	2366.10	+60.90	...
Intl Fund	806.90	849.40	+6.30	..
Fixed Interest	671.90	707.30	+2.40	...
Property Fund	506.80	533.50	-2.40	...
Cash Fund	403.80	425.10	-0.20	...
Pacific Basin	372.80	392.50	+2.20	...
N American Fd	429.10	451.70	+4.30	...
Euro Fund	413.40	435.20	-2.80	...
Balanced Fund	209.10	220.20	+3.30	...
Strategic Fund	227.20	239.30	+4.00	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	981.60	....	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	552.60	581.70	...	...
Op Equity	1374.60	1446.90	...	...
Op High Yield	707.90	745.20	...	...
Op Managed	1055.00	1110.50	...	...
Op Deposit	433.50	456.30	...	...
Japan Smlr	189.80	199.80	...	...
Managed Gth	363.50	382.60	...	...
British	492.20	518.10	...	...
Global Bond	121.20	127.60	...	...
Gold Share	79.40	83.60	...	...
Japan	366.80	386.10	...	...
UK Smlr Cos	567.50	596.80	...	...
Mngd Growth	603.20	634.90	...	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	505.90	532.50	...	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	95.50	101.10	+1.10	2.37
Deposit Fund (2)	420.70	445.20	+0.40	6.81
Gilt Fund	623.40	659.70	-2.30	8.13
Global Equity Fd	294.90	312.10	+3.70	...
Property Fund (46)	124.50	131.80	...	7.03
AG Bond Fund	167.20	177.00	+1.30	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	837.10	881.20	+22.00	...
Fixed Interest	437.10	460.20	+3.30	...
Index-Linked	221.90	233.60	+1.30	...
International	567.40	597.20	+8.60	...
Property	335.00	353.60	+2.20	...
Cash	254.40	267.80	+0.10	...
Managed	613.60	645.90	+12.00	...
Cap Gteed Bd	171.10	180.20	+6.30	...
95% Safeguard	111.30	...	+1.70	..
100% Safeguard	102.30	...	+0.30	...
Wealth Pres Cap	106.30	...	+1.30	...
Wealth Pres Inc	71.20	...	-7.90	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	201.51	212.11	+0.18	...
Index-Linked	188.40	198.30	+1.40	..
Fixed Interest	217.80	229.30	+1.60	...
Mixed	342.70	360.80	+2.40	...
UK Equity	334.80	352.40	+0.70	...
International	333.80	351.40	+3.00	...
American	441.10	464.30	+13.90	...
Japan	208.70	219.90	+2.00	...
European	396.80	417.70	+2.00	...
Pacific	377.40	397.30	-4.40	...
Technology	618.60	632.50	+31.30	...
Fxgn Bd/Ccy	239.00	251.60	+1.90	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	246.90	260.00	+0.30	...
UK Equity	523.30	551.00	+10.60	...
American	376.50	396.00	+6.80	...
Pacific	376.60	396.50	+3.50	...
European	666.00	701.10	+3.80	...
Global Mgd	396.70	417.70	+4.50	...
Fixed Interest	285.60	300.70	...	...
Index Linked	226.20	238.20	+1.80	...
Deposit	216.50	228.00	+0.20	...
Managed	385.20	405.60	+5.30	...
Worldwide	149.80	157.80	+1.40	...
Pen Worldwide	164.70	173.30	+1.80	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (38)	2202.00	2373.20	+38.00	...
Safety Fund	290.60	305.90	+3.80	...
Growth Fund	316.90	333.60	+8.00	...
Opportunity Fd	317.90	334.70	+7.80	...
Cash Fund	192.30	202.30	+0.10	...
European Fund	530.30	558.30	+9.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	248.60	261.70	+1.00	...
Index-Linked Fd	205.10	215.90	+0.80	...
International Fd	366.70	386.00	+8.60	...
North American	387.40	407.80	+15.90	...
Property Fund	137.00	144.30	...	...
UK Equity	357.20	376.10	+12.00	...
UK Smaller	331.70	349.20	+1.80	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	362.30	381.40	+6.90	...
Equity	399.30	420.50	+9.20	...
International	339.80	357.80	+6.80	...
Property	254.40	267.90	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	286.10	301.30	+0.90	...
Index Linked	207.30	218.40	+1.70	...
Cash	204.70	215.50	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1067.60	1135.80	+21.40	...
Cash Fund	373.30	393.40	+0.10	...
Property Fund	329.20	346.90	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	1147.30	1220.60	+23.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	575.90	606.90	+2.30	...
International	479.80	510.30	+9.80	...
High Income	1006.20	1070.50	+30.60	...
Far East	598.50	637.80	+11.30	...
North American	853.00	907.50	+30.50	...
Special Sits	889.90	946.80	-9.00	...
Technology	1139.80	1212.60	+60.50	...
Extra Income Fd	542.70	577.40	+15.00	...
Gilt Fund	546.60	581.50	+0.40	...
European	215.40	229.20	+3.50	...
Adventurous Mg	272.30	287.00	+5.70	...
Secure Mgd	188.30	198.50	+2.90	...
Equity Inc Dist	147.90	155.90	+4.30	4.04
Managed Dist	129.70	136.70	+1.70	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	440.90	464.10	+10.70	...
North America	517.50	550.60	+19.80	...
Far East Fund	620.50	660.60	+13.00	...
Global Managed	596.90	635.00	+9.80	...
Deposit Fund	251.70	265.00	+0.10	...
Prime Residential	144.60	152.30	+0.20	...
European Fund	390.80	415.80	+3.60	...
Fixed Interest	61.70	65.60	+0.30	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1364.30	1364.30	+17.10	...
Inv Pol 2	1231.80	1296.70	+16.20	...
Inv Pol 3	1161.90	1223.20	+15.30	...
Inv Cash	351.00	369.60	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	601.60	633.30	+4.30	...
Equity Fund	765.20	805.50	+6.00	...
Property Fund	279.00	293.80	+0.30	...
International Fd	627.50	660.60	+5.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	455.40	479.40	+2.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	229.50	241.70	+2.40	...
Cash Fund	253.50	267.00	+0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	519.50	546.80	+9.80	...
Equity Acc	669.30	704.50	+20.20	...
International Acc	408.10	429.50	+4.40	...
Property	248.90	261.90	+0.10	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH. 0131 225 2552				
Cash	297.60	313.30	+0.30	...
Equity	1483.40	1561.50	+31.30	...
European	226.30	238.30	+3.10	...
Far East	180.20	189.70	-1.20	...
Fixed Interest	476.90	502.00	+2.10	...
Index Linked	243.20	256.00	+1.80	...
International	736.20	775.00	+9.50	...
Managed	951.20	1001.30	+14.70	...
Nth American	222.80	234.60	+4.70	...
Property	416.80	438.80	+5.20	...
Pensions				
Cash	479.20	504.50	+0.60	...
Equity	2320.90	2443.00	+56.70	...
European	306.40	322.60	+6.80	...
Far East	147.90	155.70	+2.00	...
Fixed Interest	690.30	726.70	+3.30	...
Index Linked	345.50	363.70	+3.10	...
International	1127.20	1187.30	+27.40	...
Managed	1447.60	1523.80	+20.70	...
Nth American	308.40	324.70	+6.80	...
Property	608.70	640.80	+1.30	...
Stock Exchange	321.10	338.10	+6.00	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	945.20	995.00	+22.10	...
Equity Fund	1304.60	1373.30	+36.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	490.40	515.20	+2.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	368.80	388.30	+2.60	...
Property Fund	576.50	606.90	+1.00	...
International Fd	905.00	952.70	+22.90	...
N American Fd	459.00	483.20	+17.60	...
Far East Fund	247.00	260.00	+2.40	...
Deposit Fund	332.00	350.00	+0.40	...
Intnl Bd ‡	1125.40	....	+170.00	...
Worldwide Bond	165.80	174.40	+0.40	...
European	268.80	283.00	+1.30	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	955.70	1006.10	+18.20	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	614.60	652.90	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	676.00	...	+1.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	624.70	...	+1.10	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	924.60	...	+1.30	...
-do- Acc ‡	880.70	...	+1.00	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	496.90	...	+0.80	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	519.00	...	+0.70	...
Investment Fd ‡	508.20	...	+11.30	...
Investment (A) ‡	485.70	...	+10.80	...
Equity ‡	1923.30	...	+51.80	...
Equity Acc ‡	1829.60	...	+49.20	...
Money Fund ‡	537.50	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	510.90	...	+0.70	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	830.70	...	+18.40	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	460.70	...	+1.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	460.70	...	+1.90	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1423.80	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	252.70	...	+0.40	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	2093.40	...	+82.40	...
Managed Acc ‡	1129.80	----	-7.00	...
Equity Account ‡	1723.10	...	-21.80	...
Mngd Fund Acc	513.00	540.00	-3.30	...
Equity Fund Acc	742.20	781.30	-9.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	293.70	309.20	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	379.40	399.30	-0.20	...
Money Fund Acc	244.50	257.40	+0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Sec Ac	231.60	243.80	-0.20	...
Pers Pens Acc ‡	2613.60	...	+10.80	...
Pens Mngd Acc	1214.60	1278.50	+5.30	...
Pens Guarantee	310.40	326.80	+0.50	...
Pens Equity	493.80	519.80	+4.00	...
Pens Property	345.10	363.30	+0.50	...
Pens Fixed Int	372.80	392.50	-2.10	...
Pens Intl	324.20	341.30	+0.30	...
Pens Money	270.80	285.10	+0.40	...
Pens Indx-Linkd	227.40	239.40	-1.00	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1201.30	1264.60	+20.40	...
Property Acc	463.30	487.70	+14.40	...
Equity Acc	2096.30	2206.70	-45.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	493.20	519.20	+2.20	...
Cash Acc	346.10	364.40	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	599.00	630.60	+16.50	...
Japan Acc	273.60	288.10	+3.20	...
Pacific Acc	420.60	442.80	+4.50	...
Far Eastern Acc	889.40	936.30	+9.40	...
International Acc	750.60	790.20	+14.40	...
Distribution Fund	329.60	347.00	+5.10	5.40
European	265.70	279.70	+2.50	...
Deffrd Dist	219.10	230.70	+2.40	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	378.70	398.70	+7.20	...
Property Fund	239.80	252.50	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	263.80	277.80	+0.40	...
Money Fund	222.50	234.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	513.70	540.80	+11.90	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	942.80	992.20	+14.40	...
Money Fund	352.40	370.90	+0.60	...
Equity Fund	882.80	929.20	+15.70	...
Fixed Interest	335.60	353.30	+1.10	...
Property Fund	429.50	452.10	+4.10	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	774.00	816.50	+20.70	...
Income	1011.60	1086.00	+34.30	...
International Gth	781.10	823.10	+13.00	...
Capital Fund	765.40	806.50	-5.90	...
Recovery Fund	643.70	678.30	-5.30	...
Japan & General	241.80	254.30	+2.40	...
Formerly Allianz				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.05	21.11	+0.04	...
Bear	26.37	27.76	+0.48	...
Owl	28.82	30.34	+0.41	...
Bull	24.17	25.44	+0.30	...
Stag	24.59	25.88	+0.20	...
Gilt Edged	22.21	23.38	+0.07	...
Deposit	17.33	18.24	+0.05	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	28.20	29.68	+0.06	...
Bear	39.07	41.13	+0.82	...
Owl	41.83	44.03	+0.70	...
Bull	33.17	34.92	+0.58	...
Stag	33.11	34.85	+0.29	...
Gilt Edged	29.46	31.01	+0.13	...
Deposit	25.18	26.40	+0.05	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund ‡		708.12	+11.50	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	490.21	516.01	+8.69	...
N Amer Equity	412.73	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
Far East Equity	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
Fixed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
Cash Deposit	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
Special Opp	475.24	500.82	+4.09	...
Managed	[illegible]	441.20	+6.37	...
Index-Linked Fd	216.59	227.99	+1.04	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	788.40	829.20	+11.80	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	443.30	466.70	+1.60	...
Life Equity Acc	1164.70	1226.10	+20.50	...
Life Money Acc	331.40	348.80	+0.60	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1031.30	1085.50	+25.50	...
Life Intl Acc	402.70	423.90	+9.40	...
Life High Inc Acc	1159.00	1220.70	+34.60	...
Life Property Acc	288.30	303.40	+2.70	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.30	...

د. آمنة الأصيل

هكذا من الأصل

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Travel insurance for grey pilgrims

From Miss M. J. L. Jenner

Sir, I read your article on holiday insurance (June 28) with great interest as a friend, aged 74, and I, 67, are using our Eurostar offer tickets from *The Times* next month for a three-night/four-day Paris jaunt, and I have been asking down the high street for insurance quotes, which ranged from £16.50 to a staggering £59 at Thomas Cook!

Insurance companies are probably reluctant to admit to being on to a good thing, but I do wonder whether from your statistical knowledge you find the heavy weighting against over-65s justifiable. While the aged section of the population as a whole may not be a good insurance risk, my observation suggests that those who are nervous about their blood pressure or foreign ways either go to Bournemouth or stay at home. The wanderers are usually fit, experienced, resourceful and adequately funded. We do not lie under a tropical sun for ten hours, leave our valuables in hostel dormitories, or get drunk in waterfront night clubs. Is a 70-year-old enjoying her book and view of Etna in a shaded hotel garden really more likely to come to grief than a stressed-out overweight City worker of 50 trying to prove that he's still up with the lads?

Other forms of insurance frequently acknowledge the fact that elderly people are generally more careful of their possessions and prudent in their behaviour than their juniors. I think that a campaign on behalf of the grey band of pilgrims is overdue!

Yours faithfully,
M. JENNER,
173 Farnaby Road,
Bromley,
Kent.

Travellers are so vulnerable at your age... you must admit?
SPICE OF LIFE
QUEUE THIS SIDE
GED

Consumers' champion lacking

From Mr S. Bracken

Sir, Your report in the business section (July 10) that Co-Op Insurance has one of the worst records for compensating its victims of personal pensions mis-selling, must be viewed with open disbelief by most of your readers. It is, as a co-operative, supposed to be the champion of the consumer. If you also reflect on the fact that a recently imposed restructuring has led to sackings and widespread resignations among the salesforce, and very expensive litigation, one begins to question whether protestations that it has no plans to demutualise have much credibility for it is acting as if that has already happened. One of the main reasons co-operatives were set up in the first place was to prevent the lamentable manner in which it now appears to treat customers and employees.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY BRACKEN,
Goldings, 6 Clearwood,
Dilton Marsh,
Westbury, Wiltshire.

Lost pennies

From Mrs K. E. Myers

Sir, In company with J. R. Thompson (Weekend Money Letters, July 5), I experienced the tax inspector's inclusion of pence, which worked to my disadvantage.

More sinister, however, was the computer "mistake" in a simple subtraction, where 2p was "lost". Computers, we know, do not make mistakes. So who was benefiting from this, and possibly thousands of other amounts of 2p? The taxpayer is exhorted to be honest, why not our masters?

Yours faithfully,
K. MYERS,
18 Towton Avenue,
York.

Pensions and non-earning spouses

From Mr J. Trayner

Sir, The proposal by the Association of British Insurers that non-earning spouses should be allowed to contribute to a pension should be rejected by the Government. It would not help those who have the greatest pension need, but would simply give a further tax break to the better off.

Does the ABI seriously expect someone on say £15,000 and struggling with a mortgage to be able to make significant contributions on behalf of their partner? On the other hand, it would be an extremely attractive proposition for someone earning £100,000 to pay maximum contributions for their partner and get 40 per cent tax relief on them.

There is no mystery about having sufficient income in retirement, all you need to do is save enough money while you are working. The problem comes when there isn't much money to invest. This point is often overlooked by pension reformers, whose well-meaning proposals would simply mean that more help was channelled to those who need it least.

If reform is to be of any value it must encourage those who are currently least able to make pension provision to do so. At the same time, it must avoid giving more help to those who are already able to make ample provision.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRAYNER,
21 Audley Close,
St Ives, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies and asks that original documents are not sent in.

Penalty area

From Mr R. J. Tarrant

Sir, Like Dr P. Brooks (Weekend Money Letters, July 12), I too, have experienced the mercenary lash of Lloyds Bank in its levying of interest on overdrafts.

My monthly statement showed that for one day I had been overdrawn a little less than £10 (my limit was £250), but in consequence the penalty of £8 was incurred.

Having been a customer for the past 45 years with a blameless account record, I immediately paid a personal visit to my branch; the young assistant at inquiries could not take any immediate positive action as the accounts manager was away for a week and his deputy had no authority to act in such a matter. But would I like her to "slot me in" to his diary so that I could discuss my personal financial position upon his return?

My letter awaiting his return was explosive and brought a ready apology and cancellation of the charge, with the mitigation that the computerised operation was programmed to act upon any overdraft.

Yours faithfully,
R. TARRANT,
104 Long Road,
Cambridge.

CGT ALLOWANCES — JUNE 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in June 1997

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.907	0.814	0.727	0.636	0.575	0.525	0.419
February	-	0.898	0.806	0.713	0.630	0.569	0.519	0.409
March	0.983	0.895	0.800	0.697	0.628	0.566	0.513	0.402
April	0.944	0.869	0.777	0.662	0.613	0.547	0.489	0.378
May	0.930	0.861	0.770	0.654	0.610	0.546	0.483	0.370
June	0.924	0.856	0.766	0.651	0.611	0.546	0.477	0.365
July	0.924	0.846	0.768	0.654	0.615	0.547	0.476	0.364
August	0.923	0.838	0.751	0.649	0.610	0.543	0.460	0.360
September	0.924	0.830	0.748	0.650	0.602	0.538	0.453	0.351
October	0.915	0.824	0.737	0.648	0.600	0.531	0.438	0.340
November	0.905	0.817	0.732	0.642	0.586	0.523	0.432	0.329
December	0.909	0.813	0.733	0.640	0.581	0.525	0.428	0.326
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.318	0.210	0.162	0.142	0.115	0.079	0.049	0.020
February	0.310	0.203	0.156	0.135	0.108	0.072	0.044	0.016
March	0.297	0.199	0.152	0.131	0.105	0.068	0.040	0.014
April	0.259	0.183	0.135	0.120	0.092	0.057	0.032	0.008
May	0.248	0.180	0.131	0.116	0.088	0.053	0.030	0.004
June	0.243	0.174	0.131	0.117	0.088	0.051	0.029	
July	0.242	0.177	0.135	0.119	0.094	0.056	0.033	
August	0.230	0.174	0.134	0.115	0.088	0.051	0.029	
September	0.218	0.170	0.130	0.110	0.086	0.046	0.024	
October	0.209	0.166	0.126	0.111	0.085	0.051	0.024	
November	0.212	0.162	0.127	0.112	0.084	0.051	0.023	
December	0.212	0.161	0.131	0.110	0.079	0.045	0.020	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6 1985 (April 1 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES

Direct Line Instant Access Account

BALANCE	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
£1-£4,999	5.15%
£5,000-£9,999	5.50%
£10,000-£24,999	6.15%
£25,000-£49,999	6.25%
£50,000-£99,999	6.50%
£100,000+	6.60%

MORTGAGE RATE

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE	7.04%
APR	7.2%

All rates correct at 8th July 1997.

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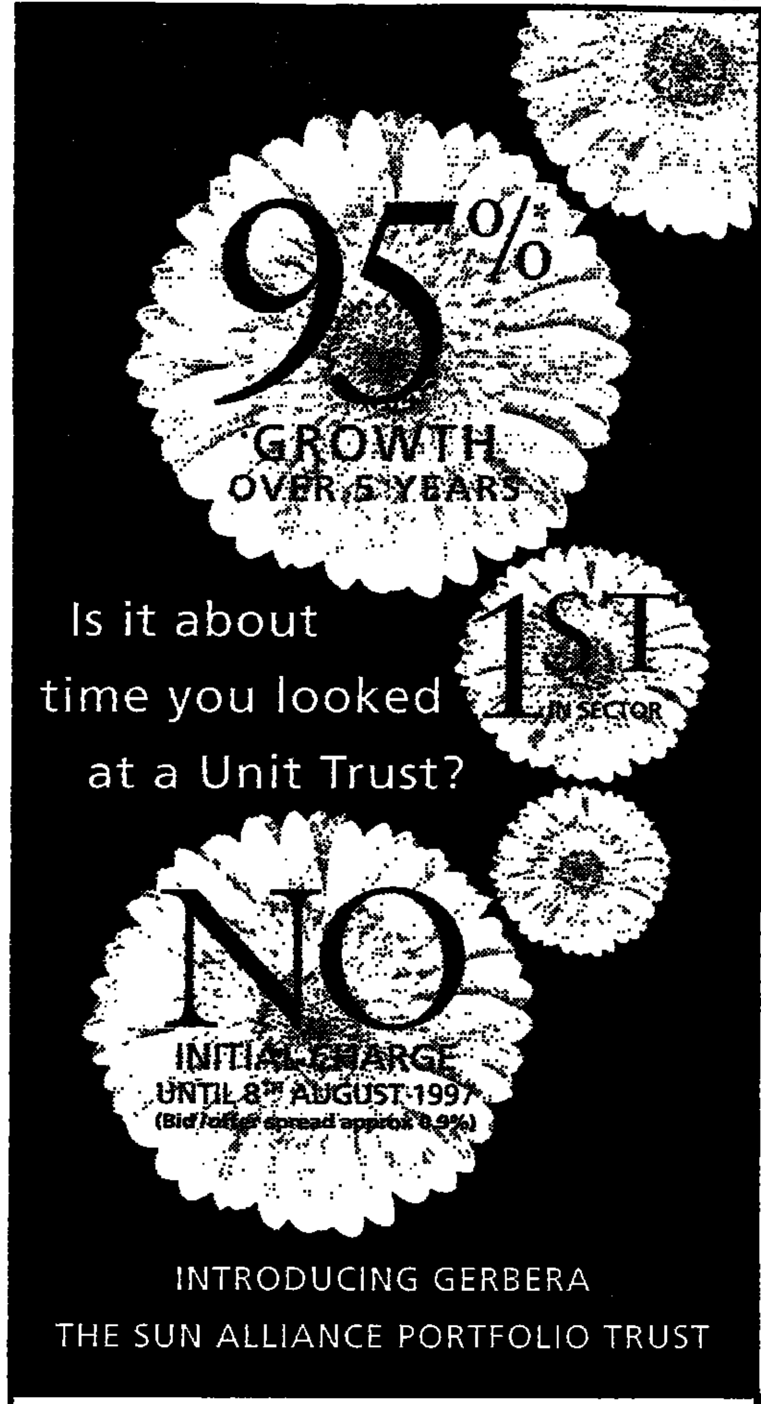
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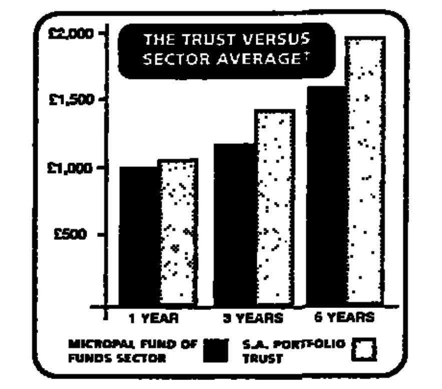

Put another way, £1000 invested at launch in 1988 would today be worth £2514†, though past performance is no guarantee of future performance. The minimum investment is £500.

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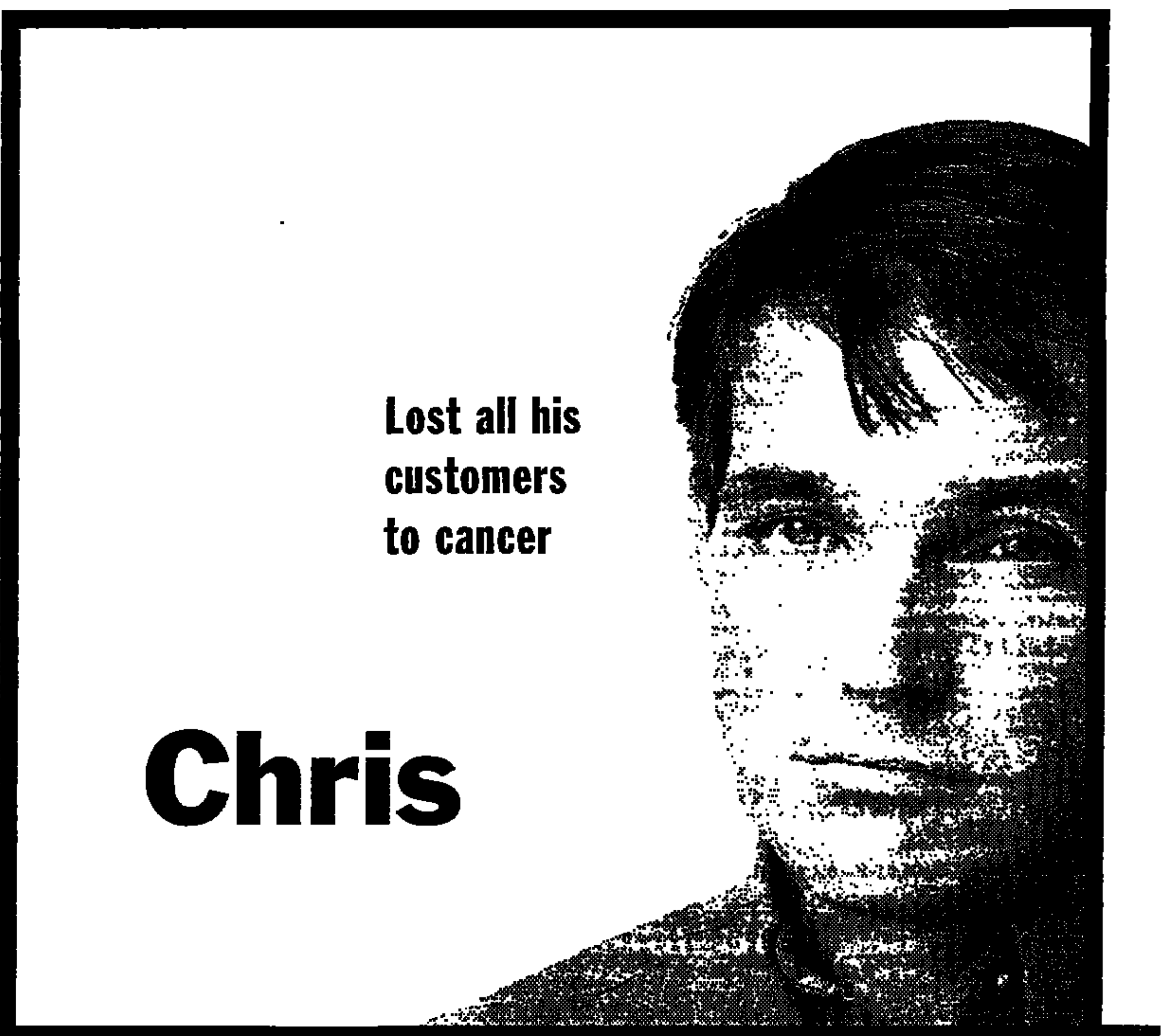
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Chris

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST PRICES

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	803.80	855.20	+26.00	2.22
General Inc	665.90	708.50	+21.50	2.22
UK Growth Acc	556.90	592.50	+17.70	2.16
UK Growth Inc	356.00	378.80	+11.20	2.16
Higher Inc Acc	980.70	1043.30	+29.60	3.67
Higher Inc Inc	514.40	547.30	+15.40	3.67
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	220.90	233.38	+ 0.60	5.46
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	94.30	99.69	+ 0.26	5.46
Nth America	412.40	438.50	+16.50	.
Europe	438.60	466.70	+ 6.60	
Brit Excell	111.20	118.40	+ 3.70	2.38
Brit Fndmtls Acc	134.70	143.40	+ 3.30	4.34
Brit Fndmtls Inc	88.85	94.54	+ 2.19	4.34
Global Oppr	115.80	122.00	+ 2.20	
Balanced Acc	72.44	77.07	+ 1.85	1.98
Balanced Inc	66.95	71.23	+ 1.71	1.98
Japan Acc	44.13	46.95	+ 0.98	
Pac Basin Acc	400.40	426.00	+ 5.30	0.68
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.10	144.50	+ 0.70	6.35
High Inc Equity	212.20	227.00†	+ 6.80	4.27
Worldwide Bond	266.10	282.30	+ 1.00	3.94
American Growth	490.80	524.00	+13.50	0.32
Asian Pacific	343.80	367.70	+ 6.20	0.38
Assets & Earnings	330.60	353.60	+ 7.08	2.64
Euro Capital Acc	235.50	251.90	+ 0.90	0.79
Extra Inc	43.97	46.78†	+ 0.18	6.40
General	307.70	327.30	+ 7.50	2.81
Global Opps	81.89	87.12	+ 0.55	0.46
Japan	103.70	110.90	+ 1.70	
Managed Inc	51.54	54.83†	+ 0.47	4.10
Masterbnds	192.80	205.30	+ 2.90	1.08
US Emerging Cos	204.90	219.10	+13.40	
Ethical	85.01	90.44†	+ 0.30	2.02
International	153.90	163.70	+ 2.00	0.53
Dividend & Growth	78.32	83.32†	+ 2.08	4.03
Global Gwth & Sec	77.19	82.36	+ 0.35	2.45
Latin America	94.66	100.70	− 3.20	0.39
Capital Reserve	149.50	149.60	+ 0.10	4.67
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
H&P UK Growth	106.90	113.70†	+ 1.40	2.04
Equity Income	151.80	161.40	+ 4.40	4.10
Extra Income	289.90	308.40	+ 5.30	5.79
Smaller Cos	104.48	111.00	− 0.40	1.72
International	131.90	140.30	+ 2.80	1.34
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2345.00	2448.00	−23.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	75.75	78.74	+ 3.60	
Emerging Mkts	79.98	83.29†	− 1.69	
European	170.76	177.57	+ 3.38	
Extra Income #	54.70	57.56†	+ 1.01	5.34
Far East Emg Eco	126.91	133.11†	+ 0.67	0.64
Fixed Interest #	26.67	27.74	+ 0.08	8.40
Fund Inv Tst #	166.47	174.67†	+ 0.72	10.22
Japan	183.22	190.36	+ 2.19	
Latin American	78.72	83.05	− 2.54	
Pacific	82.69	86.60	+ 0.74	0.14
Property Share	83.92	88.08†	+ 1.23	1.61
UK Emerging Cos	67.61	73.07†	− 0.09	1.14
UK Growth	65.29	68.00	+ 1.90	1.45
Abn World Port #	80.96	85.73†	+ 1.67	2.51
Ethical	83.47	86.79†	− 0.06	1.18
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.43	50.43†	+ 0.19	6.99
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.08	173.15	+ 3.07	0.78
UK Equity	110.30	117.80	+ 3.07	2.90
UK Equity & Bd	63.87	67.70	+ 1.10	5.29
UK Smlr Cos	51.43	55.01	− 0.39	1.70
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	882.56	895.90	+ 5.47	3.86
Inv Fd Acc	893.90	907.40	+ 5.53	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	159.76	160.40	− 0.32	6.92
Fxd Int Sec Acc	163.39	164.05	− 0.34	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	891.07	904.53	+27.02	3.85
Investment Acc	4231.91	4308.05	+128.59	..
Fixed Int Inc	129.35	129.87	+ 0.23	6.93
Fixed Int Acc	251.50	252.50	+ 0.45	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.47	94.29	+ 0.02	5.31
Beck Bio-Tech	38.27	41.53†	+ 1.32	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	197.63	207.53†	+ 2.98	0.46
City Fin Assets	85.03	89.29	− 0.15	1.86
City Fin Intl	95.75	100.55	+ 1.59	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	334.11	355.44†	− 1.53	2.23
Buckley Wrld Gth	149.47	158.44	− 2.84	
Stow Utilities	76.70	78.32	+ 3.15	4.44
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	64.74	68.69	+ 0.37	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	95.18	101.23	+ 3.95	...
Dragon Growth	73.58	78.69	+ 0.26	0.26
Equity High Inc	107.21	113.44	+ 2.88	3.34
-do- Accum	158.81	168.05	+ 4.28	3.34
Extra Income Inc	27.68	29.13†	+ 0.14	6.50
Extra Income Acc	31.75	33.42	+ 0.17	6.50
European Gwth	79.41	84.03	+ 0.43	0.13
Evergreen	34.28	36.66	+ 1.15	
General Equity	126.09	133.68	+ 4.09	2.42
Japan Growth	45.13	48.01	+ 1.44	.
Pacific Growth	73.32	77.59	+ 2.12	1.99
Pnd Sm Cos Inc	38.87	41.13	.	1.38
-do- Accum	41.63	44.05	.	1.38
Retirement Inc #	32.18	34.23	+ 0.94	5.35
Special Sits	52.23	56.16	+ 0.83	2.61
UK & Overseas	70.43	74.53	+ 1.67	0.47
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 808 000				
Balanced	79.06	82.35	+ 1.78	3.75
Capital	96.19	100.19	+ 2.35	2.30
High Income	54.79	57.07	+ 0.26	6.48
Top 50	69.41	72.30	+ 2.34	2.23
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	210.81	219.62	+ 4.54	4.39
Long Gilt	47.18	48.12†	+ 0.44	5.72
Monthly Inc Plus	54.21	56.47	+ 0.42	7.93
Preference Shres	51.15	53.29†	+ 0.36	7.32
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	152.45	158.82†	+ 0.55	5.64
Managed Fund	85.88	89.47	+ 1.55	2.53
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	50.64	52.76	− 2.13	1.81
-do- Accum	60.55	63.08	− 2.56	1.81
UK & General	118.19	123.03	+ 5.98	2.28
-do- Accum	156.56	163.10	+ 7.93	2.28
UK Growth	229.48	239.07	+ 6.75	1.64

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	271.80	290.40	+ 9.30	..
Income & Growth	258.20	275.70	+ 8.60	4.08
-do- Accum	424.20	451.30	+14.30	4.08
Intl Growth	475.80	506.50	+13.50	..
-do- Accum	526.30	562.40	+15.00	..
Japan & Gen	163.60	173.70	+ 2.00	...
-do- Accum	165.30	175.40	+ 2.00	...
Monthly Inc #	224.30	238.60†	+ 4.70	4.26
-do- Accum #	230.50	245.20†	+ 4.70	4.36
Managed Port Inc	131.80	139.50	+ 0.40	1.29
-do- Accum	144.80	152.40	+ 0.48	1.29
Quarterly Income #	61.97	66.31	+ 1.63	5.07
-do- Accum #	73.21	78.34	+ 1.94	5.07
Recovery	349.40	373.70†	− 1.80	..
-do- Accum	412.40	441.10†	− 2.10	
UK Growth	74.65	79.41	+ 1.82	1.79
-do- Accum	82.47	87.73	+ 2.00	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	76.37	81.16	+ 2.81	
FP Am Smllr Cos	217.30	231.70	+ 7.40	..
FP Asian Growth	297.00	318.80	+ 5.80	.
FP Australian	458.30	488.80	+ 3.70	.
FP Equity Dist	538.20	574.00	+18.20	2.00
-do- Accum	1215.00	1295.00	+41.00	2.00
FP Euro Gth	365.70	390.00	+ 2.00	
-do- Accum	400.50	427.20	+ 2.10	
FP Intl Bond	55.90	59.15	+ 0.59	3.98
FP Intl Gth Dist	44.16	47.12	+ 0.88	...
-do- Accum	64.89	69.21	+ 1.20	..
FP Pac Basin Acc	232.80	248.30	+ 3.30	
FP Income #	67.18	71.65†	+ 1.98	4.38
-do- Accum #	244.10	260.30	+ 7.10	4.38
FP Jap Smllr Cos	243.90	260.10	− 1.49	.
FP Monthly Dist #	83.07	88.60†	+ 1.54	4.63
FP Stg Deposit	100.20	100.20†	+ 0.10	5.19
FP Tokyo	78.63	83.87	+ 1.45	
FP UK Focus	50.97	54.36	+ 1.90	1.37
FP UK Growth	238.60	254.50†	+ 9.18	1.61
-do- Accum	491.10	523.80	+18.60	1.61
Stewardship Dist	457.40	487.80	+ 2.90	1.45
-do- Accum	581.80	620.50	+ 3.70	1.45
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	78.49	83.72	+ 0.49	4.98
-do- Accum #	110.90	118.30	+ 0.70	4.99
N Am Stshp Dist	158.00	168.30	+ 7.00	..
-do- Accum	167.90	179.00	+ 7.50	
FP Exempt Trust (1800)F				
Inst Ethical In #	117.60	118.30†	+ 2.60	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	120.00	120.60	+ 2.80	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	147.20	156.50	+ 4.20	0.60
Oppn Cap Gth Acc	148.80	158.40	+ 4.10	...
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	131.60	139.50	+ 3.00	2.69
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	140.80	149.80	+ 3.10	2.69
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	135.70	144.30	+ 3.00	3.54
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	147.10	156.40	+ 3.30	3.54
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	351.00	372.40	+10.00	1.55
Cash	49.63	50.38	+ 0.03	4.52
Growth Portfolio	104.80	111.38	+ 1.70	
Income Portfolio	83.68	88.78	+ 0.60	2.78
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	229.40	245.30†	− 0.30	0.52
Dividend	114.80	122.80	+ 2.89	3.66
Int Gth & Inc	282.70	302.30†	+ 6.00	1.31
UK & Gen	55.93	59.82	+ 1.29	1.14
Fund of Funds	83.05	88.82	+ 2.68	.
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	237.50	253.80	+15.50	0.13
European Gth	874.00	929.40	+11.30	0.51
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	59.25	62.77	+ 0.19	3.80
-do- Accum	68.03	72.08	+ 0.21	3.80

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Slater Gwth	204.50	218.10	+ 3.20	0.92
New Japan	83.71	89.41	− 7.50	.
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	202.10	214.90†	+ 5.60	...
Income #	244.73	260.35†	+ 3.23	3.99
UK Growth	94.60	100.00†	+ 1.25	1.85
Intl Growth	98.25	104.52	+ 2.93	0.54
Ecology	109.96	116.97	+ 0.77	0.75
European	240.54	255.89†	+ 2.79	0.20
Far Eastern	340.85	362.60†	+ 7.70	..
UK Special Sits	60.70	64.74	+ 0.09	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.32	64.34	+ 0.70	0.53
High Income #	56.85	60.84	+ 0.96	4.62
Financial Opps	49.66	52.99	+ 0.77	..

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Trustee	48.20	51.00	+ 1.00	4.82
-do- Accum	213.80	228.30	+ 4.30	4.82
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	125.52	133.53	+ 1.05	0.19
Intl Bond	60.94	64.02	+ 0.47	3.89
Intl Equity Growth	98.00	104.07	+ 2.35	0.40
N Amer Growth	167.05	177.23	+ 8.52	0.56
Special Sits Growth	32.58	34.65	+ 0.81	2.05
UK Growth	544.42	578.16	+18.89	2.47
-do- Accum	759.40	807.87	+23.56	2.47
NM JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1559.40	1581.80	+16.00	2.70
Income #	1137.00	1154.50†	+16.70	4.40

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.00	106.60†	+ 0.40	6.62
Euro Pro Inc	120.10	127.60†	+ 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	120.30	128.00†	+ 0.69	2.75
Gilt Yield	123.10	129.60†	+ 0.60	6.23
Global Income	257.50	273.90	+ 4.90	2.93
High Yield	191.80	204.00†	+ 5.20	4.57
-do- Accum	652.90	694.60†	+17.70	4.57
Money Market	100.51	100.51†	+ 0.06	5.99
Smllr Cos Div	62.92	66.80	+ 0.36	3.67
Tempest Co Ex Acc	1119.00	1134.00†	+17.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	182.90	194.50†	− 6.20	..
Asian Growth	318.20	338.50	+ 2.60	.
-do- Accum	374.00	397.90	+ 3.30	.
North American	134.20	142.70†	+ 5.40	
European Special	153.13	162.90†	+ 1.80	1.02
European	215.43	229.10†	+ 1.30	0.56

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	185.90	189.80†	+ 3.80	3.68
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	101.29	104.40	+ 1.10	6.62
M & S Inv Pfolio	201.60	207.80†	+ 3.90	2.11
-do- Accum	244.20	251.80†	+ 4.70	2.11
UK Sel Pfolio	185.60	191.40†	+ 4.90	2.13
-do- Accum	228.40	235.50†	+ 6.10	2.13
UK 100 Cos	146.30	146.30	+ 4.10	2.28
-do- Accum	150.00	150.00	+ 4.30	2.28
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.96	77.62	− 0.10	3.11
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4545				
Intl Income	96.93	102.90†	+ 1.70	3.36
European	123.78	131.30	− 0.40	0.32

Shares end sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
489	407½	Allied Domecq†	444½	-5	6.1	13.3
638	462½	Bulmer (HP)	465	-7½	4.0	
75½	44	Burn Stewart	45		9.4	11.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A†	972½	...	1.7	24.0
627	425½	Grand Met	616	-9½	3.1	19.6
627	424	Guinness	612½	-8½	3.3	17.5
380	321½	Highland Dist	331	.	3.2	15.5
335	235	Matthew Clark	238½		12.5	11.4
109½	52½	Merrydown W	63½	-3	6.2	
1978¾	1462½	SA Breweries	1843¾	+3½	2.0	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1178¾	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1083¾		2.8	
971	710	Abbey Nat	862½	-29	3.8	15.3
655	532½	Alliance & Leic	615½	-7½	3.3	15.1
525	388½	Allied Irish	522½	+5	3.5	14.8
451½	363½	Aus New Z	448½	+10½	4.2	
4158¾	2875	Bank America	4031¼	-109¾	.	
443½	291½	Bank Scotland	424½	-12½	2.4	12.9
1327	978½	Barclays	1283	-25½	3.1	13.0
742	517½	Bk of Ireland	739½	-2½	2.8	
7800¾	6006¼	Citicorp	7518¾	-16¾		
1758¾	1368¾	Commerzbk	1618¾		2.8	.
862½	558¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	787½		0.6	...
3659¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3009¾	+18¾	1.7	
1165¾	758¾	Espirito Santo	1165¾	.	3.1	.
947½	684½	Fuji Bank Y	854¼	+1½	0.5	..
2215	1272½	HSBC	2090	-87½	2.5	18.1
2187	1241	HSBC HK	2009	-98½	2.6	17.4
783	714	Halifax	751	-5½	2.5	22.4
610	483½	Irish Perm	590		2.7	
733½	424	Lloyds TSB	677	-30	2.4	21.9
888¼	609½	Nat Aust Bk	858½	+9	4.6	12.1
890½	663½	Nat West	868½	-27	4.2	13.0
683½	508	Ryl Bk Scott	636	-8½	3.8	13.7
1053½	681	Stand Chart	1001½	-33½	1.8	18.0
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
374½	315½	Westpac	349½	+2½	4.2	
343½	291½	Woolwich	298½	-1½	3.3	17.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocomponents†	436	-6½	2.2	24.6
226½	124½	Eurodis Elec	125		5.0	17.8
87½	76½	European Mtr	82½	+2½	7.8	7.9
263	213	Evans Halshaw	227½	...	9.7	...
53½	39½	Fife Indmar	39½		10.4	7.9
397½	318½	Finelist Grp	319	.	2.8	16.2
34½	25½	Gardiner	26¼		4.6	9.6
79¼	57½	Glencheaton	65¼	.	2.8	12.8
110	82½	Gowrings	100	+2	3.8	22.7
15¾	11	HR Owen	13¼	-¼	6.0	12.4
103	20½	Hamlet	27	-1	28.2	2.5
267½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	240½		5.2	9.3
320½	284½	Headlam	304½	+2½	2.4	20.1
160	145	Holders Tech	160		5.1	14.6
240½	172½	ISA Intl	173½	-5¼	2.1	14.0
308½	240½	Inchcape	288½	-2	4.5	17.7
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	64½		4.4	10.0
277	214½	Kwik-Fit	277	+1	2.5	19.9
393½	316½	Lex Service	392½	...	5.1	12.9
122	100	Lookers	107		9.6	7.5
9	5¾	Middlesex	7½		1.7	13.0
41½	10½	Midstates†	15½	..	3.9	3.2
472	180	Norbain†	256	.	4.2	
166½	114½	Northamber	131		1.3	7.8
357½	305½	Partco	322½	-4	3.1	16.9
404½	342½	Pendragon	355½	-1	3.5	16.4
223½	185½	Perry Gp	186½		8.0	8.8
751	448	Premier Farnell	477½	+1½	3.1	17.3
152½	124½	Quicks Group	132½	-4	6.6	9.0
357	307½	REA†	350		1.4	43.1
2½	1¾	Reece	2			23.3
30	12½	Ransom	14½	.	2.2	.
4	1¾	Ross Gp	2	..	.	
109½	78½	Ryland	86½	.	5.8	15.5
38	24	SEP Indl	31¾	-¼	6.2	14.5
92½	35	Saltire†	36		4.2	
419¾	284½	Time Products†	289½		5.2	11.1
337	228	UMECO†	326	+1	2.1	21.2
77½	58	United Cases Gp	77	...	...	16.7
352½	280½	Vardy (Reg)	280½		3.4	13.1
685	498½	WF Elect	662½	-1	2.5	24.0
41	26½	Wassall	29	-1½	3.7	.
172½	111½	Wyko	111½	...	3.0	13.0
154½	119½	Young (H)	142		3.8	12.1

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RACING: GIFT FILLY CAN LAND RICH PRIZE FOR NEWLYWEDS IN WEATHERBYS SUPER SPRINT

Ella to strike winning note at Newbury

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

WHEN Ken and Marianne Dandridge married last autumn, their friends and fellow jazz enthusiasts, Roger and Amanda Simmons, gave them an original present — a quarter share in a yearling out of The Queen Of Soul.

The Brussels-based newlyweds were asked by their fellow owners to think of a suitable name for the filly. Given the dam and her sire — Chief Singer — the almost inevitable outcome was Ella, in recognition of Ella Fitzgerald, the most popular jazz singer of her generation who had died a few months earlier.

Trained by Lord Huntingdon, the filly made her debut at Windsor last month and, despite not impressing paddock watchers at the Thames-side track, she struck the right notes during the race, winning at 16-1 in a decent time. The Dandridges watched the race in Brussels on Sky television, but this afternoon they will join the Simmons at Newbury where Ella lines up for the £50,000-added Weatherbys Super Sprint — by far the most valuable race of the day.

She faces formidable opposition, headed by Daunting Lady, who was third in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot and is trained by Richard Hannon. The East Everleigh handler has won this race three times since it was first run in 1991 and also saddles Rejected, Dancing Icon and Phone Alex as he goes for a fourth success. Others entering calculations include the progressive Lord Kintyre, fourth in the Windsor Castle Stakes, Occhi Verdi, Stop Out, Prime Hand, the consistent Banningham Blade and the improving Mysticism.

However, the form of Ella's race, which looked above average at the time with third-placed Aurigny having previously filled the same spot in the Windsor Castle Stakes, now looks rock solid with fourth-placed Whisky Mac having defied a big weight to win a nursery in taking style at Leicester on Thursday.

Bosra Sham will be ridden by Pat Eddery for the remainder of this season. Wafic Said, her owner, was not satisfied with the tactics used by Kieren Fallon when Bosra Sham finished third in the Coral Eclipse Stakes.

Although she is not an extravagant worker on the West Ilsley gallops, **Ella** is going the right way and, with further improvement expected on only her second outing, she has a decent each-way chance.

In a different way, Captain Scott also amounted to a present as the Polar Falcon gelding was given by Peter Player, of Whatton Manor Stud, to Jeremy Glover, who in turn passed him on to a grateful syndicate of owners.

Somewhat to the surprise of connections, the three-year-old hacked up when making his debut on the all-weather at Southwell in March and showed that run was no fluke when finishing a good third at Pontefract the following month. However, his best performance came at York in May when he finished fifth in a competitive mile handicap.

Unfortunately, he was struck into during the race, but has made a full recovery and looks to have been placed to perfection in the Bute House Nursing Home Limited Stakes at Ayr this evening (7.25).

Captain Scott has done two good pieces of work recently and should appreciate the step up to ten furlongs in a race where the Sir Mark Prescott-trained Ferny Hill looks the main danger.

On the same card, **Stackattack** makes a quick reappearance after winning a competitive handicap with something in hand at York last Saturday, and should be able to follow up off a 6lb higher mark in the Rothmans Royals North-South Challenge Series Handicap (8.25).

Daunting Lady runs in today's valuable Newbury sprint. Photograph: Martin Lynch

Peslier to make prompt delivery for Stoute team

TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY

BBC1

1.30: Trans Island is the best of those with racing experience, having finished second to the well-regarded Cape Verdi at Newmarket before justifying odds-on favouritism here in a slowly-run race five weeks ago. Peter Chapple-Hyam, who trains Cape Verdi, should know where he stands with his newcomer **Dark Moondancer** and, given the Manton trainer's excellent strike rate with two-year-old debutants, especially at this track, the Anshan colt is a tentative choice. Quintus, who cost $85,000 as a yearling, holds a Derby entry.

2.00: Jayannpee won this race a year ago but, after a promising seasonal reappearance at Goodwood, he has disappointed this term. By contrast, Averti, three lengths away in seventh spot 12 months ago, has thrived this season. He is arguably the form choice, having won a decent conditions event at Bath in April before running an excellent fourth last time out in the King's Stand Stakes over an inadequate five furlongs. He must go close but, with this season's older sprinters a rather moderate lot, it may be worth risking a less exposed three-year-old.

Both Hattab and Za-Im won well last time and are improving, but I prefer the chance of **Proud Native**, runner-up in the group two Mill Reef Stakes here last year. He produced his best effort when chasing home Ya Malak at Sandown over five furlongs two weeks ago. With today's extra furlong likely to suit, he should go well at decent odds.

2.30 see above

Richard Evans

Nap: CAPTAIN SCOTT
(7.25 Ayr)
Next best: Proud Native
(2.00 Newbury)

NEWMARKET

CHANNEL 4

3.15: This revolves around the progress made by two unexposed daughters of Slip Anchor. Fascinating Rhythm, at one time the Oaks favourite, has had her problems and is a risky proposition. Preference is for **Kaliana**, a half-sister to Kahyasi, who has been working well since making an impressive debut at Chepstow. Should inexperience get the better of her, Beauchamp Jade is the value.

3.45: Hayil showed plenty of speed to run fifth in the Coventry at Royal Ascot, but he could prove vulnerable in the closing stages to **Prompt Delivery**. This Zilzal colt holds entries in the Gimcrack and Middle Park, and Olivier Peslier — a significant booking — can get a nice lead from Hayil in the adjacent stall. Iceband and Quiver Tree are expected to benefit from the experience.

4.15: Speculator is fancied to elude the handicapper, who has only the limited evidence of a fluent Warwick win before him. He contested that maiden after a three-month lay-off, while the Haggas string was badly out of sorts. His trainer, who won this last year with Missile, can now be counted upon to produce further improvement from this improving colt. Stilett won a good race over course and distance at the July meeting, but the form is suspect because of a slow pace. The Arundel-trained challenger, Stanton Harcourt, who rather runs on his nerves, may be suited by dropping back to a mile.

4.45: Swynford Dream, especially if the rain stays away, has a much better chance — with Peslier booked — than his form figures might suggest. He was actually last at Newcastle last time, but showed that he retains plenty of dash before folding quickly in the closing stages. That was traced to a back problem, since treated, and he has dropped 11lb while coming to hand this season.

Chris McGrath

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.30 Trans Island
2.00 Proud Native
2.30 Lord Kintyre
3.05 Victory Note
3.35 Germano
4.05 Kinnescash
4.35 Dreans End

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 **MUGELLO.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.35 **ANOTHER TIME** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

1.30 MTOTO DONNINGTON CASTLE CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £8,194: 7f str) (6 runners) BBC1

101	(5)	21	TRANS ISLAND 37 (C,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) I Balding 9-3	K Darley	●
102	(2)	614	WREKIN PILOT 92 (G) (Winning Team) R Hannon 8-13	Dane O'Neill	95
103	(6)	0	ALAZAN 30 (Spanish Connection) D Hyde 8-10	S Sanders	–
104	(4)		DARK MOONDANCER (Dr A Gillespie & J Wilson) P Chapple-Hyam 8-7	J Reid	–
105	(1)		QUINTUS (Sir George Meyrick) P Cole 8-7	Pat Eddery	–
106	(3)		IDA LUPINO (A Spead) B Hills 8-2	R Hills	–

BETTING: 5-4 Trans Island, 3-1 Dark Moondancer, 5-1 Quintus, 6-1 Wrekin Pilot, 7-1 Ida Lupino, 66-1 Alazan.

1996: IMPERIAL PRESIDENT 8-13 W Ryan (9-4) H Cecil 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRANS ISLAND beat Tumbleweed Hero 2½l in 5-runner conditions race here (6f, good). WREKIN PILOT beat Bernardo Bellotto 1¾l in 6-runner maiden at Kempton (5f, good).
ALAZAN tailed off to Central Park in 12-runner listed race at Ascot (7f, good). DARK MOONDANCER (foaled Mar 31) half-brother to Dances With Dreams, smart 6f juvenile winner, dam, daughter of Soba, unraced. QUINTUS (Jan 27) half-brother to several winners in North America, dam won at up to 1m 1f in North America. IDA LUPINO (Apr 18, 30,000gns) half-sister to High Baroque, useful 1m/1m 4f winner and Dancing Heights, 1m 2f winner; dam, half-sister to smart miler Captain James, unraced.
No selection

2.00 RUINART CHAMPAGNE HACKWOOD STAKES (Listed race: £12,178: 6f 8yd) (14 runners) BBC1

201	(14)	10-2404	JAYANNPEE 15 (CD,F,G) (Exors late J Paracca) I Balding 6-9-7	W Ryan	95
202	(12)	050-000	SEA DANE 67 (D,F) (Canal Gold Connections) P Harris 4-9-7	S Sanders	85
203	(4)	50-1444	AVERTI 29 (D,F,G,S) (D Deer) W Muir 6-9-3	Dane O'Neill	●
204	(11)	2206015	CRETAN GIFT 9 (B,D,F,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 6-9-3	J Weaver	94
205	(1)	0006504	HELLO MISTER 3 (D,F,G,S) (B Mitten) T Powell 6-9-3	M Hills	85
206	(6)	06750-0	THE PUZZLER 75 (CD,G,S) (Lady Richard Wellesley) B Hills 6-9-3	A Nicholls	95
207	(10)	016-410	ANDREYEV 31 (D,F,G,S) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 3-9-2	R Hughes	90
208	(8)	01650-5	BLUE RIDGE 93 (F) (S Al Homeizi) V Soane 3-8-12	B Doyle	81
209	(5)	20-1301	HATTAB 38 (D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 3-8-12	Pat Eddery	90
210	(13)	6-40310	JOHNNY STACCATO 14 (D,G,S) (J Smith) J Eustace 3-8-12	J Tate	94
211	(9)	43-0500	OMAHA CITY 14 (F) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 3-8-12	D Harrison	89
212	(7)	0215-04	PROUD NATIVE 14 (D,F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 3-8-12	K Darley	94
213	(2)	215-10	SOVIET STATE 30 (D,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-12	J Reid	95
214	(3)	51-2021	ZA-IM 15 (CD,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-12	R Hills	98

BETTING: 3-1 Za-Im, 9-2 Hattab, 5-1 Averti, 7-1 Jayannpee, Andreyev, 10-1 Soviet State, 12-1 The Puzzler, Proud Native, 14-1 others.

1996: JAYANNPEE 5-9-3 W Ryan (16-1) I Balding 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

AVERTI about 2l 4th of 18 to Don't Worry Me in the group II King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot (5f, good to soft). CRETAN GIFT about 4½l 5th of 20 to Tumbleweed Ridge in the Bunbury Cup Handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). ANDREYEV beat Royal Aly ¾l in 6-runner listed race at Newmarket (7f, good). HATTAB beat Venture Capitalist 7l in 4-runner conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, firm). SOVIET STATE beat CRETAN GIFT (3lb better off) 2½l in 8-runner conditions race at Thirsk (6f, good to firm) with SEA DANE (6lb better off) 15¼l 8th. ZA-IM beat Indian Spark 1l in 7-runner conditions race at Haydock (6f, good).
Selection: AVERTI

2.30 WEATHERBYS SUPER SPRINT (2-Y-O: £74,672: 5f 34yd) (25 runners) BBC1

301	(3)	416	REJECTED 30 (D,F) (T Holdcroft) R Hannon 8-13	R Hughes	77
302	(18)	3022	TAKE A TURN 7 (BF) (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) M Channon 8-13	P P Murphy	85
303	(24)	513	PURE COINCIDENCE 24 (D) (Mrs A Munnis) G Lewis 8-8	M Hills	80
304	(21)	1132	DAUNTING LADY 15 (BF,D,G,S) (E N-Erichsen) R Hannon 8-7	Pat Eddery	96
305	(23)	414	LORD KINTYRE 29 (F) (M Calvert) B Millman 8-7	B Doyle	88
306	(10)	040214	YORKIES BOY 21 (D,F) (Mrs M Beddis) B McMahon 8-7	K Darley	81
307	(8)	0	DANCING ICON 28 (J Smith) R Hannon 8-6	J Reid	–
308	(7)	344	BE MY WISH 40 (T Tran) Miss G Kelleway 8-5	T Sprake	52
309	(4)	0321	BRANDON FRANK 21 (G) (Stamford Bridge Pins) I Balding 8-5	S Whitworth	82
310	(17)	324	CHARLIES LAD 12 (M & G Hill) R Guest 8-5	P Bloomfield	79
311	(6)	1624	OCCHI VERDI 22 (D,G) (G Mitchell) M Johnston 8-5	J Weaver	84
312	(25)	1	STOP OUT 35 (D,G) (S Macdonald-Buchanan & Partners) H Morrison 8-5	W Ryan	77
313	(12)	22	BLUE KITE 72 (BF) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 8-4	N Adams	72
314	(19)	1	ELLA 19 (D,S) (Conolan Partnership) Lord Huntingdon 8-3	D Harrison	90
315	(5)	421	PETARGA 35 (D,F) (Mrs R Gore-Andrews) J Toller 8-3	S Sanders	79
316	(9)	5	RELATE 28 (Ladyswood Racing Club) M Meade 8-3	F Norton	61
317	(15)	014	CATHERINES SONG 10 (D,F) (Select Newmarket Partnership) C Dwyer 8-1	J Tate	69
318	(14)	0221	PHONE ALEX 28 (D,G) (J B R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-1	Dane O'Neill	81
319	(22)	1140	LADY MOLL 29 (D,G) (Ms L Bell) R Boss 8-0	R Hills	86
320	(13)	4522	MYSTICISM 7 (BF) (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 8-0	D Biggs	88
321	(1)	45000	SOLWAY LASS 9 (B Lewendon & Mrs C Lewendon) P Eccles 8-0	DOUBTFUL	50
322	(16)	5	PERSIAN SABRE 49 (Persian War Racing) V Soane 7-13	A Whelan	60
323	(20)	124	SALAMANCA 74 (D,S) (Mrs C Deuters) J Berry 7-13	P Fessey	79
324	(2)	1312446	BANNINGHAM BLADE 21 (D,F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 7-12	Martin Dwyer	●
325	(11)	456	RHINEFIELD BEAUTY 12 (F Brady) J Goldie 7-12	R Mullen	54

BETTING: 9-2 Daunting Lady, 13-2 Banningham Blade, 7-1 Ella, 10-1 Lord Kintyre, Brandon Frank, Phone Alex, 12-1 Occhi Verdi, Petarga, Salamanca, 14-1 others.

1996: MISS STAMPER 8-2 D Harrison (14-1) R Hannon 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

REJECTED beat Sharp Cracker 4l in 5-runner maiden at Haydock (5f, good to firm). TAKE A TURN 2l 2nd of 6 to Hurlswood in maiden at Chester (5f 16yd, good to firm). PURE COINCIDENCE 7½l 3rd of 6 to Jimmy Too in novice median auction stakes at Chester (5f 16yd, soft). DAUNTING LADY about 3l 3rd of 18 to Nadwah in the group III Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot (5f, good to firm) with BANNINGHAM BLADE (9lb better off) short-head 4th. LORD KINTYRE 3l 4th of 14 to Asurah in conditions race at Ascot (5f, good) with LADY MOLL 25l last, previously beat BRANDON FRANK 2½l in 24-runner auction maiden at Windsor (6f, good to firm). YORKIES BOY 3½l 4th of 6 to Princess Natalie in conditions race at Doncaster (5f, good to soft). STOP OUT beat Midsummer Night ½l in 7-runner maiden at Sandown (5f, good to firm). ELLA beat Tempus Fugit 1¼l in 9-runner auction novice at Windsor (5f, good to soft). PETARGA beat Hob Justice 1¼l in 12-runner maiden auction at Bath (5f 11yd, good to firm). PHONE ALEX beat Sweet Rosie 1¾l in 7-runner auction maiden at Lingfield (5f, good).
Selection: DAUNTING LADY

3.05 ROSE BOWL STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,852: 6f 8yd) (7 runners)

401	(7)	10	AIX EN PROVENCE 10 (D,G) (J Featherstone) M Johnston 8-11	J Weaver	87
402	(1)	0201	BATSWING 21 (B,S) (R Withers) M Meade 8-11	F Norton	79
403	(3)	10	BOLD EDGE 32 (CD,S) (Lady Whent) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	85
404	(6)	325014	FIVEO'CLOCK SHADOW 10 (D,S) (Mrs D Blackshaw) B Meehan 8-11	M Tebbutt	73
405	(4)	21	HILL MAGIC 12 (D,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) D Elsworth 8-11	D Harrison	77
406	(5)	2	VICTORY NOTE 11 (Mrs J Magnier & R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	87
407	(2)	2101	MUGELLO 8 (F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-6	M Hills	●

BETTING: 6-4 Victory Note, 11-4 Bold Edge, 5-1 Mugello, 6-1 Hill Magic, 12-1 Aix En Provence, 14-1 others.

1996: CRYSTAL CROSSING 8-6 J Reid (Evens fav) P Chapple-Hyam 6 ran

3.35 STEVENTON STAKES (Listed race: £12,490: 1m 2f 6yd) (5 runners)

501	(2)	/0-3131	CAP JULUCA 24 (CD,F,G,S) (M Myers) R Charlton 5-9-6	R Hughes	92
502	(3)	540-211	GERMANO 58 (D,F,S) (Baron G von Ullmann) G Wragg 4-9-6	M Hills	95
503	(4)	1102-61	ARABIAN STORY 42 (F,G) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-3	D Harrison	97
504	(5)	2-141	GHATAAS 35 (C,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-7	R Hills	91
505	(1)	412-105	ROYAL AMARETTO 27 (CD,F,G) (Harlequin Pics) B Meehan 3-8-7	M Tebbutt	●

BETTING: 9-4 Royal Amaretto, 3-1 Arabian Story, 7-2 Cap Juluca, 4-1 Germano, 6-1 Ghataas.

1996: WALL STREET 3-8-7 J Reid (9-2) S bin Suroor 6 ran

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.05 HANNINGTON HANDICAP (£5,508: 1m 5f 61yd) (9 runners)

601	(5)	0220002	REMAADI SUN 8 (F) (T Barker) M Usher 5-10-0	R Street	94
602	(8)	00-6022	MY LEARNED FRIEND 14 (C,F,G) (Mrs J Roberts) A Hide 6-9-10	R Mullen (5)	93
603	(7)	1340-01	JAZZ KING 12 (F,G) (Whitcombe Manor) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-10	J Reid	90
604	(1)	305-000	STORY LINE 14 (S) (Story Line Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-9-10	S Whitworth	96
605	(6)	13-5460	CASUAL WATER 25 (F,G) (G Leatham) A Newcombe 6-9-10	S Sanders	98
606	(2)	20-4113	KINNESCASH 14 (BF,F,S) (D James) P Bowen 4-8-10	M Hills	91
607	(3)	23-0406	SANDY FLOSS 18 (Mrs S Livesay) R Buckler 4-8-7	Pat Eddery	93
608	(9)	2040-03	LAVENDER DELLA 25 (Abigail Ltd) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-2	Dane O'Neill	95
609	(4)	0801000	CHRIS'S LAD 7 (B,BF,F,G,S) B Meehan 6-7-13	Martin Dwyer (3)	●

BETTING: 5-2 My Learned Friend, 3-1 Jazz King, 4-1 Remaadi Sun, 6-1 Kinnescash, 7-1 Chris's Lad, 8-1 Casual Water, 12-1 Lavender Della, 20-1 others.

1996: MYSTIC HILL 5-10-0 A Clark (12-1) G Harwood 14 ran

4.35 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE HANDICAP (£5,394: 1m 1f) (13 runners)

1	(5)	5110-60	STRAZO 14 (F,S) (E Retail) Lady Herries 4-10-0	J Reid	88
2	(2)	5-15500	ANOTHER TIME 7 (F,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 5-9-11	Pat Eddery	94
3	(3)	42-3610	KING OF TUNES 31 (G,S) (Mrs E Sheehan) J Sheehan 5-9-10	Dane O'Neill	●
4	(1)	4-36105	DREAMS END 14 (D,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 9-9-10	R Hills	98
5	(6)	4000-16	AUTUMN COVER 42 (B,F,G) (G Alexander) P Hedger 5-9-6	D Biggs	94
6	(11)	00/2024	VIRTUAL REALITY 43 (F) (Ash Partnership) J Toller 6-9-5	S Sanders	97
7	(9)	3211110	PHILISTAR 14 (D,F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-9-3	B Doyle	98
8	(13)	424-105	CHINA RED 8 (F) (N Browne & Partners) J Hills 3-9-3	M Hills	91
9	(8)	004-601	MATTIMEO 22 (F,G) (Mrs M Keogh) A Jarvis 4-9-2	W Ryan	96
10	(12)	215-056	PISTOL 58 (F,G) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 7-9-1	D Harrison	88
11	(10)	210-50	MY VALENTINA 15 (S) (D Deer) B Hills 3-8-7	T Sprake	94
12	(4)	160345	TRIBAL PEACE 12 (D,S) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 5-8-1	Martin Dwyer (3)	96
13	(7)	0080001	ZERMATT 14 (F,S) (Mrs M Pearson) M Usher 7-8-0	N Adams	98

BETTING: 4-1 Dreams End, 9-2 Mattimeo, 6-1 Zermatt, 7-1 Autumn Cover, 8-1 King Of Tunes, Virtual Reality, 10-1 Another Time, 12-1 others.

1996: DAUNT 4-10-0 J Carroll (25-1) J Gosden
dead-heated with THAMES SIDE 5-8-3 D Harrison (14-1) M Madgwick 11 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	37	161	23.0	J Reid	54	284	19.0
Miss G Kelleway	5	28	17.9	J Weaver	9	53	17.0
R Charlton	19	117	16.2	W Ryan	15	96	15.6
G Wragg	5	34	14.7	A Whelan	3	24	12.5
Lady Herries	8	60	13.3	M Hills	21	179	11.7
M Johnston	4	32	12.5	Pat Eddery	32	283	11.3

Toller gains narrow double

JAMES TOLLER, the Whitsbury trainer, completed an across-the-card double yesterday when Roderick Hudson won over hurdles at Southwell and Literary Society took the sprint handicap at Newbury. Both horses scored by a short head. The trainer saddles Petarga in today's Weatherbys Super Sprint at Newbury.

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.10 Classic Find
2.40 Toujours Riviera
3.15 STAR PRECISION (nap)
3.45 Hayil
4.15 Stanton Harcourt
4.45 Bowden Rose
5.20 Red Guard

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.45 Hayil, 4.15 Stilett.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.10 FOOD BROKERS-GLOYSTARNE HANDICAP (£4,347: 1m 6f 175yd) (10 runners)

1	(7)	1/650-6	CAPTAIN'S GUEST 58 (C,F,G) (In The Frame Racing) Mrs A Perrett 7-10-0	A Clark	90
2	(9)	223	COLOUR CODE 21 (B Walker) Mrs A Swinbank 5-9-12	N Day	96
3	(2)	00-0350	ARCTIC FANCY 21 (S) (Cool Customers) P Harris 4-9-8	C Lowther (7)	92
4	(5)	00-4202	PIKE CREEK 38 (F) (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 4-9-2	L Dettori	95
5	(4)	3-00603	CLASSIC FIND 15 (F) (Classic Bloodstock Plc) I Campbell 4-9-0	A Mackay	95
6	(10)	1124310	SEA FREEDOM 7 (V,F,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 6-8-12	S Drowne	92
7	(6)	0036500	PROSPECTOR'S COVE 3 (G,S) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 4-8-11	G Hind	90
8	(3)	3114-56	BEAUMONT 109 (F,G,S) (P Cunningham) J Banks 7-8-11	R Cochrane	89
9	(8)	0-55014	AMIARGE 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Woods) M Brittain 7-7-10	G Bardwell	90-
10	(1)	-000564	DURHAM 9 (B,F,G) (Secret Partnership) G L Moore 6-7-10	C Rutter	●

BETTING: 9-4 Pike Creek, 11-4 Colour Code, 11-2 Captain's Guest, Sea Freedom, 10-1 Arctic Fancy, Classic Find, 12-1 Beaumont, Amiarge, 14-1 others.

1996: TOP CEES 6-9-12 K Fallon (6-1) Mrs J Ramsden 8 ran

2.40 INVESCO HANDICAP (£4,698: 1m) (12 runners)

1	(1)	54-2626	BLESSED SPIRIT 21 (D,F) (Sir William Stuttaford) C Wall 4-9-12	R Cochrane	98
2	(6)	5-05012	AL MASROOR 22 (D,F) (Al Muallim Ptnrs) J W Payne 3-9-4	Dean McKeown	95
3	(9)	0-023	AWASSI 7 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 4-9-3	O Peslier	95
4	(3)	3500 02	DESERT TIME 35 (D,F,G) (Spool Racing) C Horgan 7-9-2	D Holland	91
5	(10)	2/10	PRIOLO PRIMA 169 (BF,D) (Petra Bloodstock) M Prescott 4-8-2	C Nutter	90
6	(7)	02-3044	TOUJOURS RIVIERA 11 (D,F,G) (Exdreco) J Pearce 7-9-2	L Dettori	92
7	(5)	0-61001	SAFEY ANA 52 (D,F,G) (Optimists Racing Partnership) B Hanbury 6-8-12	J Stack	92
8	(6)	3-00110	CA'D'ORO 20 (D,F,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 4-8-8	S Drowne	92
9	(4)	2106010	JIBEREEN 11 (C,D,G,S) (L Sheridan) P Howling 5-8-4	Paul Eddery	●
10	(11)	6-00150	MR ROUGH 17 (D,F) (R Akehurst) D Morris 6-8-2	N Day	97
11	(12)	-000032	SARATOGA RED 8 (B) (T Morgan) W G Gorman 3-8-1	Emma O'Gorman	92
12	(2)	-605000	SALTANDO 26 (V,D,F) (Mrs S Hendige) Pat Mitchell 6-7-12	A Mackay	95

BETTING: 7-2 Blessed Spirit, 11-2 Safey Ana, Saratoga Red, 13-2 Al Masroor, Ca'd'oro, 7-1 Desert Time, Toujours Riviera, 10-1 others.

1996: HAWKSLEY HILL 3-8-12 K Fallon (7-2 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 11 ran

3.15 FOOD BROKERS APHRODITE STAKES (Listed race: £11,755: 1m 4f) (10 runners) C4

1	(1)	2210-53	ANNO LUCE 21 (V,D,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-2	L Dettori	●
2	(10)	416-300	BALL GOWN 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (C Lines) D Thom 7-9-2	D R McCabe	83
3	(5)	41236-0	BEAUCHAMP JADE 91 (D,F,G) (E Penser) H Candy 5-9-2	C Rutter	93
4	(7)	405024-	CABARET 231 (G) (I Allan) P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-2	O Peslier	90
5	(9)	166-060	WOODREN 14 (F) (Miss K Racing) R Guest 4-9-2	R Cochrane	87
6	(8)	53-1551	DUST DANCER 20 (D,F,S) (Helmonds Stud) J Dunlop 3-8-4	Paul Eddery	97
7	(3)	1-	FASCINATING RHYTHM 283 (S) (H Springfield Ltd) H Cecil 3-8-4	K Fallon	81
8	(6)	1	KALIANA 18 (S) (H H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-8-4	D Holland	82
9	(4)	5-11164	STAR PRECISION 14 (D,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 3-8-4	S Drowne	92
10	(2)	36-4323	VAGABOND CHANTEUSE 49 (G) (W Green) T Etherington 3-8-4	A Clark	94

BETTING: 7-2 Vagabond Chanteuse, 9-2 Dust Dancer, 5-1 Anno Luce, 6-1 Fascinating Rhythm, 7-1 Kaliana, 8-1 Ball Gown, 10-1 Cabaret, 12-1 others.

1996: SHEMOZZLE 3-8-4 M Hills (6-4 fav) J Gosden 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP JADE 4½l 6th of 30 to Better Offer in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good) Sep 96. CABARET neck 2nd of 10 to Mistra in listed race at Le Croise-Laroche (1m 3f, very soft). DUST DANCER beat Romanos 6l in 4-runner limited stakes at Goodwood (1m 4f, good to soft). FASCINATING RHYTHM beat Brave Kris 1½l in 13-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, good). KALIANA beat Mashaník 3½l in 6-runner maiden at Chepstow (1m 2f, soft). STAR PRECISION about 1¼l 4th of 8 to Squeak in the group III Lancashire Oaks at Haydock (1m 4f, good) with WOODREN (1lb better off) 4½l 7th. VAGABOND CHANTEUSE 2l 3rd of 8 to Legend Maker in the group III Prix de Royaumont at Chantilly (1m 4f, good).
Selection: VAGABOND CHANTEUSE

3.45 PRIMULA MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,305: 6f) (12 runners) C4

1	(12)		AL MABROOK (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 9-0	Paul Eddery	–
2	(3)	6	BEWARE 22 (Wyck Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-0	R Price	–
3	(11)		BROUGHTONS MILL (Windmill Racing) W Musson 9-0	J Stack	–
4	(6)		DELAYED REACTION (R Sangster) N Callaghan 9-0	S Drowne	–
5	(2)		EI EI (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	D Holland	–
6	(9)	25	HAYIL 32 (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-0	K Fallon	●
7	(5)		HOLY WINE (C Ranson) D Loder 9-0	P McCabe (3)	–
8	(1)		ICEBAND (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
9	(10)		PROMPT DELIVERY (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0	O Peslier	–
10	(4)	60	RED PEPPER 26 (Rosefield UK Ltd) P Howling 9-0	C Rutter	67
11	(7)		QUEEN SALOTE (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 8-9	C Lowther (7)	–
12	(8)		QUIVER TREE (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-9	R Cochrane	–

BETTING: 5-2 Hayil, 3-1 Iceband, 9-2 Prompt Delivery, 5-1 Quiver Tree, 12-1 Delayed Reaction, 14-1 Beware, Holy Wine, Queen Salote, 20-1 others.

1996: MAN HOWA 9-0 J Weaver (4-9 fav) L Cumani 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEWARE 10¾l 6th of 6 to Linden Heights in maiden over course and distance (soft). HAYIL 6l 5th of 15 to Harbour Master in group III Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot (6f, good). HOLY WINE (foaled Apr 26) first foal; dam useful French middle-distance performer.
ICEBAND (Mar 10) half-brother to three winders abroad, dam grade II winner in North America. PROMPT DELIVERY (Mar 22) half-brother to several winners abroad including Happy Holiday, graded stakes winner, dam multiple winner in North America, including Grade I races from 1m to 1m 4f at three years. QUEEN SALOTE (Mar 28, cost 94,000gns) half-sister to Abou Lahab, useful 7f juvenile winner.
No selection

4.15 FOOD BROKERS ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST TROPHY (Handicap: 3-Y-O: £17,150: 1m) (12 runners) C4

1	(8)	1-146	HAYES WAY 91 (D) (A Ward) T Mills 9-7	A Clark	89
2	(3)	52-0120	WASP RANGER 32 (D,S) (C Wright) P Cole 9-7	David O'Neill (7)	94
3	(1)	3-3102	GENEROUS LIBRA 15 (F) (W Said) D Loder 9-5	R Cochrane	●
4	(2)	62-1105	STANTON HARCOURT 10 (F) (C Humphris) J Dunlop 9-4	O Peslier	94
5	(4)	05131	STILETT 9 (CD,F,G) (Scuderia Rencati Srl) L Cumani 9-2	L Dettori	98
6	(5)	3125326	NOMORE MR NICEGUY 32 (G) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 9-2	K Fallon	97
7	(10)	-522310	ATLANTIC DESIRE 10 (F,G) (Atlantic Racing Ltd) M Johnston 9-1	K M Chin (3)	97
8	(12)	1-3402	SUGARFOOT 28 (G) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 9-1	C Rutter	92
9	(11)	3-24621	SHAWM 12 (D,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-13	C Lowther (7)	94
10	(6)	-251046	TIGRELLO 22 (BF,D,F) (A Al-Midani) G Lewis 8-11	Paul Eddery	94
11	(9)	45-1311	MARA RIVER 21 (D,F,G) (N Harris) I Balding 8-10	G Hind	91
12	(7)	031	SPECULATOR 15 (D,S) (Highclere Racing) W Haggas 8-7	D Holland	91

BETTING: 4-1 Stilett, 5-1 Speculator, Shawm, 6-1 Mara River, 7-1 Tigrello, 8-1 Generous Libra, Stanton Harcourt, 14-1 Atlantic Desire, 16-1 others.

1996: MISSILE 8-9 M Hills (5-2 fav) W Haggas 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

HAYES WAY about 5l 4th of 12 to Mutakal in conditions race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). GENEROUS LIBRA 4l 2nd of 10 to Jo Mell in handicap at Haydock (7f, good). STILETT beat Zoom Up 1¾l in 15-runner handicap over course and distance (1m, good to firm). ATLANTIC DESIRE beat Billy Bushwacker 2½l in 5-runner limited stakes at Newcastle (1m 2f, good). TIGRELLO about 11¼l 4th of 28 to Fly To The Stars in Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot (1m, good) with NOMORE MR NICEGUY (1lb better off) about 1l 6th. GENEROUS LIBRA 7¼l 19th and WASP RANGER (1lb better off) 3l 21st. MARA RIVER beat What Happened Was neck in 9-runner handicap at Bath (1m, good) with STILETT (5lb worse off) short-head 3rd.
Selection: GENEROUS LIBRA (nap)

4.45 CHEMIST BROKERS HANDICAP (£5,531: 5f) (11 runners) C4

1	(10)	2/445-3	MUSIC GOLD 14 (B,D,F) (N Yong) W O'Gorman 4-10-0	Emma O'Gorman	95
2	(11)	5-02500	TADEO 8 (D,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 4-10-0	K M Chin (3)	98
3	(8)	60-5060	SPEED ON 14 (D,F) (P Deal) H Candy 4-9-13	C Rutter	94
4	(2)	202/603	ANOTHERANNIVERSARY 42 (D,F) (D Baker) G Lewis 4-9-13	Paul Eddery	80
5	(5)	110-435	MELKSAH 49 (D,F) (Y Baird) M Bell 3-9-10	G Faulkner (5)	95
6	(1)	-060040	JENNELLE 11 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Cornwell) C Dwyer 3-9-6	K Rutter	90
7	(4)	-030001	BOWDEN ROSE 9 (B,D,F,S) (G Bailey & N Hall) M Blanshard 5-9-5	P P Murphy (3)	96
8	(9)	2103401	GONE SAVAGE 11 (CD,F,G,S) (Square Table) W Musson 9-9-5	R Cochrane	98
9	(7)	0520000	LAGO DI VARANO 8 (D,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 5-9-4	A Clark	●
10	(6)	1033105	DAAWE 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs A Mallinson) Mrs V Aconley 6-9-3	L Dettori	98
11	(3)	-066060	SWYNFORD DREAM 22 (D,F,G) (Outlier Holdings) J Bottomley 4-8-11	O Peslier	97

BETTING: 9-2 Gone Savage, 5-1 Bowden Rose, 6-1 Anotherannversary, Daawe, 7-1 Swynford Dream, 8-1 Lago Di Varano, Music Gold, 9-1 Speed On, 10-1 Melksah, 20-1 others.

1996: TEDBURROW 4-9-7 D Griffiths (11-2 jt-fav) Mrs A Naughton 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUSIC GOLD 3l 3rd of 13 to My Best Valentine in handicap at Sandown (5f, good to soft) with GONE SAVAGE (3lb worse off) 2l 7th and SPEED ON (4lb better off) 5l 10th. ANOTHERANNIVERSARY 5½l 3rd of 12 to Ya Malak in handicap at Epsom (5f, good) with SPEED ON (5lb better off) 2½l 6th. MELKSAH about 1l 3rd of 11 to Treasure Touch in handicap at Thirsk (5f, good). BOWDEN ROSE beat Tuscan Dawn 1l in 9-runner handicap at Lingfield (5f, good to firm). GONE SAVAGE beat Mandolo short-head in 18-runner handicap over course and distance (good). DAAWE beat Saint Express 1½l in 10-runner handicap at Redcar (6f, good).
Selection: MUSIC GOLD

5.20 CHEMIST BROKERS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,980: 1m) (15 runners)

1	(11)	30	BLOT 49 (B Gover Bloodstock Trading Ltd) Mrs J Cecil 9-0	Paul Eddery	98
2	(5)	5-3	DESERT TRACK 21 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	87
3	(7)	0	DR MARTENS 18 (R Boggs Group Ltd) L Cumani 9-0	G Hind	–
4	(6)	00	FORESTRY 9 (Lady Rothschild) J G Smyth-Osbourne 9-0	G Bardwell	68
5	(4)	0000-	GROVEFAIR VENTURE 318 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 9-0	M Rimmer	–
6	(14)		MONACLE (D Morris) D Morris 9-0	N Day	–
7	(13)	034-035	RED GUARD 9 (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 9-0	A Clark	●
8	(9)		STRENGTH OF VISION (A Allison) C Egerton 9-0	Sophie Mitchell	–
9	(1)	0	TONIGHT'S PRIZE 84 (S Sain) C Wall 9-0	W Lord	–
10	(3)	35-	WATERSPOUT 297 (Y Abdulla) Mrs A Perrett 9-0	R Cochrane	91
11	(12)	0	BROUGHTONS LURE 12 (Broughton Bloodstock) W Musson 8-9	J Stack	–
12	(8)	0-0	DESPINA 68 (Earl Cadogan) H Candy 8-9	C Rutter	–
13	(15)		HOWAIDA (S Suhail) M Stoute 8-9	K Bradshaw	–
14	(10)		LYPHIELO (R Smith) L Cumani 8-9	D Young (7)	–
15	(2)		WARNING EXPRESS (Dr G Tsoi) R Armstrong 8-9	R Price	–

BETTING: 11-4 Red Guard, 7-2 Desert Track, 6-1 Blot, Howaida, 8-1 Dr Martens, Waterspout, 14-1 Lyphielo, 16-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Brittain	3	10	30.0	L Dettori	83	538	15.4
H Cecil	69	276	25.0	K Fallon	25	175	14.3
T Mills	6	29	20.7	D R McCabe	12	90	13.3
D Loder	23	137	16.8	D Holland	10	89	11.2
E Alston	6	39	15.4	J Stack	8	80	10.0

☐ Godolphin yesterday confirmed that Gary Stevens will ride Predappio in the King George and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot next Saturday. John Reid will be aboard Swain with Olivier Peslier being lined up to ride Singspiel. Anthony Stroud, racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed, said: "It depends on whether André Fabre and Daniel Wildenstein will release him as there's a group race in France on Saturday."

MONDAY: Ayr (2.15), Southwell (AW, 2.30), Beverley (Sky, 6.35), Windsor (Sky, 6.20).
TUESDAY: Yarmouth (2.15), Worcester (2.00).
WEDNESDAY: Bath (2.15), Catterick Bridge (2.30), Leicester (Sky, 6.30), Sandown Park (Sky, 6.15).
THURSDAY: Brighton (2.00), Sandown Park (2.15).
FRIDAY: Ascot (BBC2, 2.15), Thirsk (2.05), Wolverhampton (AW, 1.55), Chepstow (Sky, 6.30), Newmarket (Sky, 6.20), Nottingham (6.10).
SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC1, 2.00), Newcastle (2.15), Lingfield Park (Sky, 6.15), Redcar (Sky, 6.35), Southwell (AW, 6.25), Market Rasen (2.10).
Flat meetings in bold

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CYCLING: LEADER STAMPS HIS MARK ON TOUR DE FRANCE

Ullrich chases a legend

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN ST ETIENNE

JAN ULLRICH asserted his superiority over his Tour de France rivals here yesterday with the most dominant time-trial performance seen in the race since the legendary and defining victory in Luxembourg in 1992 by the five-times winner, Miguel Induráin.

Ullrich's masterful performance on a rain-swept mountain course that was thought likely to favour the specialist climbers, Richard Virenque, of France, and Marco Pantani, of Italy, confirmed that the German, 23, is Induráin's most likely successor as the next dominant Tour champion.

Although Pantani, Virenque and Bjarne Riis, the defending champion, gave their all on the 13-kilometre climb to the crowd-packed Col de la Croix de Chabouret high above the Rhone valley, Ullrich's powerful style took him two minutes clear as he rode over the summit.

After changing to a heavier bike for the fast and wet descent back into St Etienne, he caught and passed Virenque, who had started three minutes earlier, and disappeared into the distance.

"We took the decision to change bikes this morning," Ullrich said. "I'm sure it made a big difference as there were still 30 kilometres to race."

Meanwhile, Chris Boardman was battling to come to terms with his disappointing performance, largely attributable to the continuing pain from displaced vertebrae and torn back muscles he suffered in a fall in the mountains.

"Today was painful physically and mentally — like somebody stubbing a cigarette out on my shoulders," Boardman said of his 55-kilometre ride. "Things aren't going well already and this kind of pain is just rubbing my nose in it. On the climb and the descent, I had to stop peddling once or twice just to give my back a break."

Boardman's discomfort was such that he was unable to use his usual aerodynamic bike and had to revert to a more traditional road machine. "The pain in my back wouldn't allow me to get low enough to use my time-trial bike so we decided before the start that this would be the first time in my career that I ride a time-trial at less than flat out," he said.

With four days of Alpine stages now lying ahead of him, Boardman is resigned to suffering further pain as the Tour heads into its final week.

"I'm going to ride day by day and see what happens," he said. "But I'm determined to reach Paris because the kids will never forgive me if I don't get to Euro Disney."

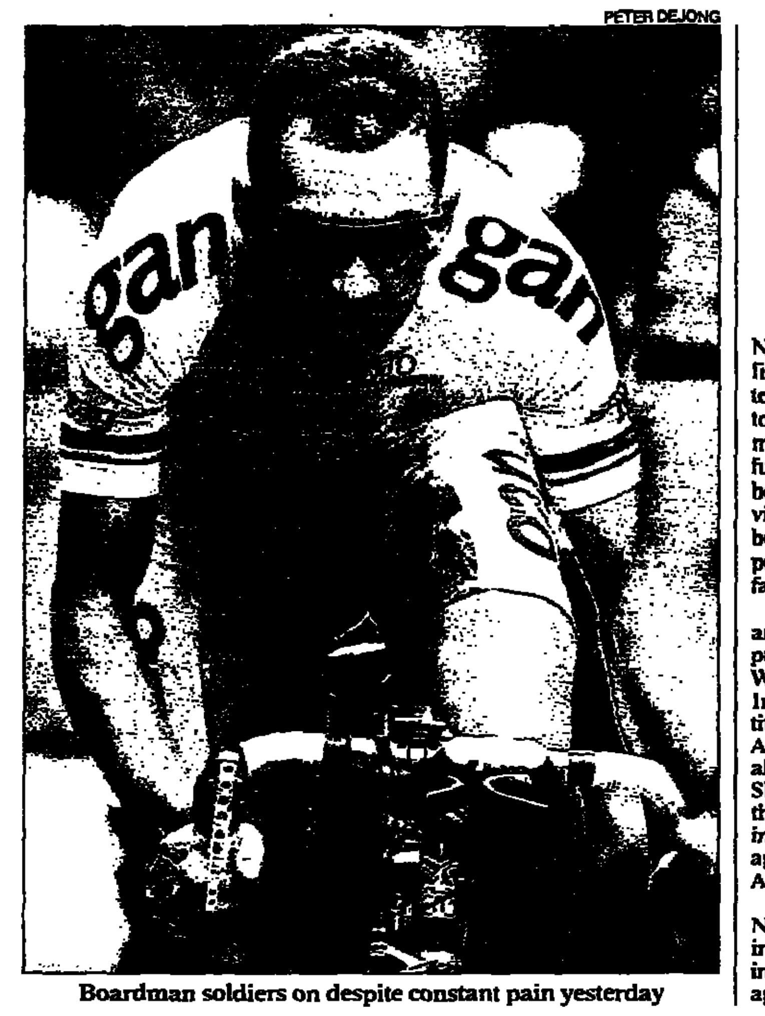
TOUR DETAILS

TWELFTH STAGE (St Etienne, 55km time-trial): 1, J Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) 1hr 16min 24sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 3min 04sec; 3, B Riis (Den, Telekom) 3:08; 4, A Olano (Sp, Banesto) 3:14; 5, M Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 3:42; 6, F Casagrande (It, Saeco) 3:56; 7, F Vandenbroucke (Bel, Mapei) 4:44; 8, Z Jaskula (Pol, Mapei) 4:50; 9, B Zberg (Switz, Mercatone Uno) 5:00; 10, M Boogerd (Holl, Rabobank) 5:04; 11, J M Jiménez (Sp, Banesto) 5:18; 12, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) 5:23; 13, L Brochard (Fr, Festina) 5:34; 14, J Pascual (Sp, Kelme) 5:35; 15, P Jonker (Aus, Rabobank) 5:52; 23, C Boardman (GB, GAN) 6:45; 65, M Sciandri (GB, La Française des Jeux) 8:31

LEADING OVERALL POSITIONS: 1, Ullrich 61hr 22min 41sec; 2, Virenque at 5min 42sec; 3, Olano 8:00; 4, Riis 8:01; 5, Pantani 9:11; 74, Sciandri at 1hr 10min 25sec; 85, Boardman 1:17:27. Points classification: 1, E Zabel (Ger, Telekom) 272pts; 2, F Moncassin (Fr, GAN) 191; 3, J Blijlevens (Holl, TVM) 168. King of the mountains: 1, Virenque 259pts; 2, Brochard 185; 3, Ullrich 162.

TODAY: Thirteenth stage: St Etienne to L'Alpe d'Huez (204km). Tomorrow: Fourteenth stage: Le Bourg d'Oisans to Courchevel (148km).

PETER DEJONG



Boardman soldiers on despite constant pain yesterday

BOXING

American viewers get taste of Hamed

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NASEEM HAMED makes his first appearance on national free television in the United States tonight. His aim is to get maximum exposure so that in the near future he can be a pay-per-view boxer. ABC, the American television company, likes his style and believes that he has pay-per-view potential, but not before he has faced some solid opposition.

Alex Wallau, a commentator and analyst for ABC, which is putting on Hamed's defence of his World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation titles against Juan Cabrera, of Argentina, at Wembley Arena, has always been impressed with the Sheffield showman. He believes that Hamed could be an outstanding talent, if he can prove himself against featherweights rated by American boxing followers.

"We have always wanted to put Naseem on, because he is an exciting fighter," Wallau said. "But it is important for him to be seen against opponents rated by US fight fans. They don't mind showboating, but they don't want to see it against poor opponents. It appears mean-spirited if Hamed outspeeds and outpowers a guy in one round."

Wallau was not certain whether Cabrera, who has been brought in at seven days' notice, would further Hamed's reputation in the United States. "He's a typical Argentine fighter — strong, and likes to come in," Wallau said. "He has a solid punch, but he's not in Hamed's class. I only hope he can put up a good fight."

ABC could do little about the choice of Cabrera, as the original opponent, Pastor Maurin, from the same stable, dropped out a week ago after suffering a cut eye sparring with Cabrera.

It is unlikely that the bout will go beyond the second round. Hamed's trainer, Brendan Ingle, thinks it will finish in the first round, but the champion promised to knock out Cabrera in the second.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

2.20 Kindred Greeting. 2.50 Alborada. 3.25 Mazilla. 4.00 Gharib. 4.30 Racing Heart. 5.00 Tarxien.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 LADIES DAY SELLING HANDICAP
(£1,985: 1m 6f 15yd) (15 runners)

1	2618	BRODESSA 19 (C,D,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-10-0	A Culhane 9
2	1530	ROSE OF GLENN 12 (D,F,G) B Palling 6-9-7	D Sweeney (5) 2
3	2051	BEDOUIN PRINCE 21 (D) Mrs L Stubbs 10-9-1	J F Egan 5
4	6/50	CHINA MAIL 14 J Bennett 5-8-13	M Fenton 3
5	0304	MAPENGO 61 (S) J Cullinan 6-8-12	V Slattery 12
6	0000	COHIBA 28 B Curley 4-8-10	G Duffield 13
7	4-03	IJAB 12 (B,D) J Parkes 7-8-8	W J O'Connor 10
8	0006	BOLD ET NOIR 10 W Jarvis 3-8-3	M Roberts 1
9	0-00	EUROLINK WINDSONG 63 M Wane 3-8-3	D O'Donohoe (3) 15
10	00/2	SIDE BAR 54J (V,CD,F) K Comerford 7-8-1	M Baird (3) 7
11	05-0	KINDRED GREETING 14 (V) J O'Reilly 5-8-1	J O'Reilly 11
12	0500	SHIP'S DANCER 4 (B) E Incisa 4-7-13	Kim Tinkler 4
13	6043	BALLET DE COUR 8 T Etherington 4-7-10	P Doe (7) 6
14	0000	DISPOL PRINCE 12 G Oldroyd 4-7-10	N Varley 14
15	000	MARYS PATH 70 S Gollings 3-7-10	J Fowle (7) 6

7-2 Brodessa, 4-1 Bedouin Prince, 6-1 Ijab, 7-1 Side Bar, 8-1 Rose Of Glenn, Bold Et Noir, Ballet de Cour, 14-1 others.

2.50 EAST MIDLAND COMMERCIALS MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,936: 6f 15yd) (19)

1		ALBORADA M Prescott 8-11	G Duffield 19
2	00	CHILTERN EMERALD 56 K Burke 8-11	D Sweeney (5) 14
3	2	DAZILYN LADY 21 P Harris 8-11	A Culhane 2
4	205	ELEONORA D'ARBOREA 21 B Meehan 8-11	G Hannon (7) 5
5	340	GREAT LYTH LASS 31 P Evans 8-11	J F Egan 16
6		LAPIMI Mrs N Macauley 8-11	A Daly (5) 3
7	5	LILANITA 10 B Palling 8-11	Aimee Cook (5) 10
8		MOMENTARILY E Dunlop 8-11	D O'Donohoe (3) 13
9	5	RATIYYA 54 B Hanbury 8-11	DOUBTFUL 18
10		RITA'S ROCK APE R Brotherton 8-11	N Varley 8
11	3	ROISIN SPLENDOUR 10 S Dow 8-11	R Perham 11
12	60	SASSY 5 A Jarvis 8-11	C Carver (7) 12
13		SPORTY SPICE J L Harris 8-11	F Lynch 1
14	3	TAALLUF 60 W Hern 8-11	D Griffiths (3) 7
15	4	TOUCHANOVA 19 A Hide 8-11	G Milligan (5) 4
16		WASHM D Morley 8-11	G Carter 15
17	0	WEDDING BAND 7 R Hannon 8-11	W J O'Connor 6
18		WROUGHT IRON M Bell 8-11	M Fenton 9
19		ZAMBEZI D Loder 8-11	M Roberts 17

3-1 Zambezi, 4-1 Dazilyn Lady, 6-1 Eleonora d'Arborea, 7-1 Taalluf, 10-1 Alborada, Roisin Splendour, 12-1 Washm, Wrought Iron, 14-1 others.

3.25 EAST MIDLAND COMMERCIALS HANDICAP
(£3,434: 1m 1f 213yd) (11)

1	6341	CALENDULA 16 (D,S) D Morley 4-9-10	G Carter 1
2	0030	DESERT CAT 38 M Wane 4-9-9	D O'Donohoe (3) 5
3	-000	BONANZA PEAK 26 Mrs J Cecil 4-9-8	G Duffield 3
4	2303	AFRICAN-PARD 28 D Haydn Jones 5-9-5	M Fenton 6
5	6501	CLUED UP 18 (V,D,F,S) P Evans 4-9-2	J F Egan 4
6	0355	MAZILLA 8 (V,CD,F,S) A Streeter 5-8-11	R Havlin (3) 9
7	-000	HAYDN JAMES 12 (B) P Harris 3-8-11	A Culhane 11
8	0500	GILLING DANCER 24 (F) P Calver 4-8-10	F Lynch 7
9	0000	FLOTILLA 14 (V) S Mellor 3-8-6	R Perham 8
10	2245	BEDAZZLE 8 (S) M Brittain 6-7-13	N Varley 2
11	0600	ONEOFTHEOLDONES 20 J Norton 5-7-11	M Baird (3) 10

11-4 Clued Up, 5-1 Calendula, 6-1 African-Pard, Mazilla, 7-1 Desert Cat, 8-1 Bonanza Peak, 10-1 Bedazzle, 14-1 others.

4.00 LADIES DAY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £6,388: 1m 54yd) (9)

1	21	MUHTAFEL 28 (D,G) J Dunlop 9-7	G Carter 2
2	5412	MOON BLAST 36 (D,F) Lady Herries 9-7	G Duffield 9
3	3-65	TELEMANIA 21 (C,F) W Haggas 9-4	F Lynch 8
4	3322	BURNING TRUTH 63 (BF) R Charlton 9-2	W J O'Connor 7
5	30-4	NOMINATOR LAD 24 B McMahon 9-11	M Wigham 4
6	-542	GHARIB 14 A Stewart 8-9	M Roberts 5
7	4006	I CAN'T REMEMBER 24 (V,BF,D,F,G,S) P Evans 8-9	J F Egan 6
8	3004	NIGHT CHORUS 14 (CD,S) B Rothwell 8-4	M Fenton 1
9	1160	MERCILESS COP 19 (B,D,F,G) B Meehan 7-13	D O'Donohoe (3) 3

5-2 Muhtafel, 7-2 Burning Truth, 5-1 Gharib, 6-1 Moon Blast, 7-1 Merciless Cop, 8-1 Telemania, 12-1 Nominator Lad, Night Chorus, 16-1 I Can't Remember.

4.30 BEST DRESSED LADY CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,785: 1m 54yd) (11)

1	5252	BON GUEST 8 (CD,G) J O'Shea 9-5	D Griffiths (3) 3
2	060-	TWO BILLS 306 A Streeter 9-5	G Milligan (5) 4
3	5005	FALLS O'MONESS 8 K Burke 9-0	D O'Donohoe (3) 8
4	-040	RACING HEART 43 P Makin 9-0	G Duffield 10
5	431-	FEARLESS CAVALIER 254 (S) R Hollinshead 8-13	F Lynch 7
6	0300	SILENT VALLEY 4 (V) Miss L Siddall 8-12	M Wigham 5
7	-600	GEORDIE LAD 33 J Bennett 8-9	M Fenton 9
8	6405	ITALIAN SYMPHONY 14 P Evans 8-9	J F Egan 11
9	00-	APRIL IN PARIS 355 C James 8-6	R Perham 2
10	-603	BOBBITT 17 W Jarvis 8-6	M Roberts 1
11	6000	FLOOD'S HOT STUFF 8 N Littmoden 8-0	A Daly (5) 6

5-2 Bon Guest, 4-1 Bobbitt, 9-2 Fearless Cavalier, 13-2 Falls O'Moness, 8-1 Racing Heart, Italian Symphony, 12-1 Flood's Hot Stuff, 14-1 others.

5.00 LADIES IN HALF PRICE RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,693: 1m 1f 213yd) (10)

1	0626	GET THE POINT 23 R Hollinshead 9-0	F Lynch 1
2	4440	NOT FORGOTTEN 16 (B) P Kelleway 9-0	M Wigham 9
3	0-40	SALSEE LAD 21 J Fanshawe 9-0	W J O'Connor 4
4	60-0	SUCH PRESENCE 15 K Bridgwater 9-0	V Slattery 5
5	006	TARXIEN 16 K Burke 9-0	J F Egan 8
6	5000	THE GREEN GREY 8 W Muir 9-0	D O'Donohoe (3) 3
7	0644	WALK ON BY 21 R Hannon 9-0	R Perham 7
8	3-30	HOPE CHEST 17 D Loder 8-11	M Roberts 6
9	000-	MISSFORTUNA 264 M Prescott 8-11	G Duffield 2
10	0005	SHOWCASE 12 (B) J Hills 8-11	M Fenton 10

11-4 Hope Chest, 4-1 Walk On By, 5-1 Get The Point, Salsee Lad, 6-1 Missfortuna, 8-1 Not Forgotten, 16-1 The Green Grey, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 10 winners from 36 runners, 27.8%; W Haggas, 6 from 23, 26.1%; A Hide, 3 from 12, 25.0%; E Dunlop, 4 from 17, 23.5%; Mrs J Cecil, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P Makin, 7 from 35, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; G Duffield, 16 from 117, 13.7%; R Havlin, 3 from 25, 12.0%; M Fenton, 10 from 90, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

☐ *My Emma, the Prix Vermeille winner,* makes her first appearance since last September's group one triumph at Longchamp when contesting the group two Prix Maurice de Nieuil at Maisons-Laffitte tomorrow. Rae Guest, her Newmarket-based trainer, has booked Darryll Holland for the half-sister to Classic Cliche.

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.35 Zizi. 3.10 Bernard Seven. 3.40 Marilaya. 4.10 Tessajoe. 4.40 Sandmoor Chambray. 5.10 Aquatic Queen.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.35 LEEDS HOLIDAY CAMP MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,359: 5f) (11 runners)

1	60	CHEROKEE CHARLIE 24 R Craggs 9-0	G Parkin (3) 7
2		CURRICULUS M Todhunter 9-0	J Carroll 4
3		KINGS CHECK Miss J Craze 9-0	S Webster 6
4	34	LEOFRIC 12 (B) M Polglase 9-0	T G McLaughlin 10
5	064	INSHALLAH 29 M Todhunter 8-9	Dale Gibson 2
6	3	QUAKERESS 35 John Berry 8-9	J Lowe 11
7	43	RICH CHOICE 19 (BF) J Bethell 8-9	T Williams 3
8	46	SAINT ANN 15 M Johnston 8-9	R Ffrench (3) 5
9	4	TIME TO TIME 7 T Easterby 8-9	L Charnock 1
10	25	TURF MOOR 81 J J O'Neill 8-9	T E Durcan (5) 9
11	33	ZIZI 12 K Burke 8-9	J Dalton 8

4-1 Rich Choice, 9-2 Leofric, Time To Time, 5-1 Zizi, Saint Ann, 7-1 others.

3.10 CENTAUR SELLING STAKES
(£2,600: 1m) (10)

1	0043	BERNARD SEVEN 12 (B,CD,F) M Dods 5-9-7	Alex Greaves 4
2	6030	DRAGONJOY 8 (V,D) N Littmoden 4-9-7	R Lappin 9
3	000-	FIRST OPTION 268 (F,G,S) R Bastiman 7-9-7	H Bastiman (5) 6
4	360-	LAB TEST 267 (F,S) J Eyre 5-9-7	M Gallagher 5
5	4003	MY HANDSOME PRINCE 15 P Bevan 5-9-2	N Carlisle 7
6	0-00	SHARK 24 K Morgan 4-9-2	D Pears 10
7	-061	SPECIAL-K 15 (CD,F,G,S) E Weymes 5-9-2	T Siddall (7) 8
8	-020	KATIE KOMAITE 15 (B,BF) J H Wilson 4-8-11	P Roberts (5) 3
9	0060	PERSIAN SUNSET 9 G Woodward 5-8-11	J Quinn 2
10	0450	GROVEFAIR LAD 7 M Wane 3-8-8	R Ffrench (3) 1

7-4 Special-K, 9-2 Bernard Seven, 11-2 Katie Komaite, 6-1 Lab Test, 8-1 others.

3.40 FORTE HOTELS MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,048: 1m 1f) (5)

1		BEACH BUOY J H Wilson 9-0	J Carroll 2
2	00-3	FANCY A FORTUNE 12 D Nicholls 9-0	Alex Greaves 4
3	36	IN THE GENES 21 J Eyre 9-0	M Gallagher 5
4	0-00	OUR FUTURE 36 (V) Ron Thompson 9-0	T Williams 3
5	2	MARILAYA 10 L Cumani 8-9	R Ffrench (3) 1

1-4 Marilaya, 13-2 Fancy A Fortune, 8-1 In The Genes, 16-1 Our Future, 25-1 Beach Buoy

4.10 TETLEYS BELL-RINGER HANDICAP
(£6,690: 1m 4f 60yd) (9)

1	4160	BREAK THE RULES 5 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 5-10-0	P Roberts (5) 1
2	6110	TESSAJOE 14 (CD,F,G) M Camacho 5-9-8	L Charnock 9
3	-001	INFATUATION 38 (D,G) Lady Herries 4-9-6	J Carroll 6
4	4062	SLIP JIG 8 (D,S) K Burke 4-9-2	J Quinn 4
5	/00-	HIGH PYRENEES 399 (G) F Murphy 5-9-1	J Fanning 7
6	-263	LEVITICUS 14 T Tate 3-8-7	N Connorton 5
7	-323	ORDAINED 3 (F) E Alston 4-8-3	T E Durcan (5) 2
8	3340	GOLD DESIRE 8 (F,G,S) M Brittain 7-7-10	J Lowe 3
9	0652	SWIFTWAY 12 K Hogg 3-7-10	Iona Wands (5) 8

5-2 Infatuation, 4-1 Slip Jig, 5-1 Tessajoe, 6-1 Leviticus, 7-1 Swiftway, 8-1 Break The Rules, Ordained, 10-1 others.

4.40 LEEDS HOSPITAL FUND HANDICAP
(£3,850: 1m 2f) (12)

1	0500	HAZARD A GUESS 35 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-10-0	Alex Greaves 1
2	-000	CENSOR 35 (F) D Nicholls 4-10-0	P Roberts (5) 7
3	6021	WHITE PLAINS 15 (D,F,S) K Burke 4-9-13	G Parkin (3) 11
4	3446	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 8 (F,G,S) T Easterby 6-9-11	L Charnock 12
5	3020	LAY THE BLAME 24 (F,S) M Hammond 4-9-7	J Carroll 6
6	0054	GYMCRAK PREMIERE 7 (D,F,G,S) G Holmes 9-9-6	T Lucas 10
7	0461	WATHBAT NASHWAN 14 (G) L Cumani 3-9-3	R Ffrench (3) 2
8	1241	DISPOL GEM 12 (C,F,G) P Calver 4-9-0	Darren Moffatt (3) 5
9	0504	IMPULSIVE AIR 12 (BF,F,G) E Weymes 5-8-10	J Quinn 8
10	1321	AMBIDEXTROUS 7 (D,F,G) E Alston 5-8-9	T E Durcan (5) 4
11	1453	IBIN ST JAMES 21 (B,CD,F) J Bethell 3-8-7	T Williams 9
12	505	QUAINT DESIRE 29 M Brittain 4-7-11	Dale Gibson 3

5-2 Wathbat Nashwan, 6-1 Ambidextrous, 7-1 Sandmoor Chambray, 8-1 Hazard A Guess, Gymcrak Premiere, Dispol Gem, Ibin St James, 10-1 others.

5.10 LEEDS CORN EXCHANGE SHOPS MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,210: 6f) (17)

1	20-0	TOM MI DAH 12 M Hammond 3-9-10	N Horrocks (7) 12
2	2640	IN GOOD NICK 21 (B) M W Easterby 3-9-9	G Parkin (3) 13
3	0423	GAIN LINE 29 Bob Jones 4-9-8	A McGlone 15
4	0530	MILL END BOY 26 (V) M W Easterby 3-9-2	T Lucas 11
5	6054	PRESENTIMENT 14 M Wane 3-9-0	S Webster 5
6	5652	AQUATIC QUEEN 26 C Dwyer 3-8-13	T E Durcan (5) 1
7	0005	MAYDORO 12 M Dods 4-8-12	Dale Gibson 6
8	0342	FISIOSTAR 8 (B) M Dods 4-8-12	J Carroll 3
9	0000	COLONEL'S PRIDE 21 R Whitaker 3-8-8	V Halliday 17
10	0653	STAR OF THE ROAD 23 J Carr 3-8-7	L Charnock 10
11	4030	DONA FILIPA 5 Miss L Siddall 4-8-7	Darren Moffatt (3) 9
12	0322	GAY BREEZE 21 P Felgate 4-8-6	D Wright 2
13	-000	PETSONG 7 V Soane 3-8-3	J Fanning 16
14	2000	OHNONOTAGAIN 2 L Lloyd-James 5-8-1	Kim Tinkler 8
15	6052	BELBAY STAR 8 (B) J Eyre 4-7-13	T Williams 14
16	0006	TOM PLADDEY 19 (B) R Bastiman 3-7-11	J Quinn 7
17	-000	MADAM ZANDO 35 J Balding 4-7-10	N Carlisle 4

7-2 Aquatic Queen, 11-2 Gay Breeze, 6-1 Gain Line, Fisiostar, 7-1 Presentiment, 8-1 Belbay Star, 12-1 Star Of The Road, Tom Pladdey, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lady Herries, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; L Cumani, 9 from 36, 25.0%; M Johnston, 20 from 113, 17.7%; Bob Jones, 3 from 19, 15.8%; E Weymes, 5 from 44, 11.4%; T Easterby, 6 from 58, 10.3%.

JOCKEYS: A McGlone, 6 winners from 28 rides, 21.4%; J Carroll, 20 from 148, 13.5%. Only qualifiers

Blinkered first time

NOTTINGHAM: 2.20 Kindred Greeting. 3.25 Flotilla. 4.00 I Can't Remember. 4.30 Silent Valley. 5.00 Not Forgotten, Showcase. REDCAR: 8.15 Hot News. RIPON: 2.35 Leofric. 3.40 Our Future. 5.10 Mill End Boy. WARWICK: 7.05 Saint Albert. 7.35 Apache Star. 8.05 Depreciate. 9.05 Pennys From Heaven.

REDCAR

THUNDERER

6.45 Forest Robin. 7.15 Abuhail. 7.45 Dirab. 8.15 Toronto. 8.45 Queens Consul. 9.15 Bally Souza.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.45 FURNITURE FACTORS RACING SCHOOLS APPRENTICE HANDICAP
SKY

(£2,399: 1m) (12 runners)

1	6300	FOREST ROBIN 12 Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-13	Claire West (5) 7
2	6000	PAINT IT BLACK 5 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 4-9-10	J Davies (7) 1
3	30/6	FIRST BITE 19 (CD,F,G) M Hammond 5-9-9	N Horrocks (3) 3
4	0400	GENERAL MONTY 8 T Barron 5-8-13	Kimberley Hart 5
5	4200	MILETRIAN CITY 5 (B,F) Miss L Perratt 4-8-13	N Pollard (5) 8
6	-030	HABETA 40 (D,F,G) J Watts 11-8-7	R Havlin 11
7	1433	PRIME PARTNER 15 (D,F,G) T Easterby 4-8-7	D Sweeney 6
8	0-06	HOTCAKE 42 Miss S Hall 4-8-7	C Teague 4
9	4204	ZAHRAN 8 (D,F) J Bradley 6-8-2	D Williams (5) 10
10	3246	CLYTHA HILL LAD 8 J Bradley 6-8-1	Iona Wands 2
11	0003	WESTERN VENTURE 47 (F) M Wane 4-8-0	M Baird 12
12	0060	PAPERWORK PETE 12 W Storey 5-8-0	J McAuley (5) 9

4-1 Prime Partner, 9-2 Paint It Black, 5-1 Forest Robin, 7-1 Western Venture, 8-1 Habeta, Zahran, 10-1 Hotcake, Clytha Hill Lad, 12-1 others

7.15 E B F BORO REDBOOK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,620: 7f) (11)
SKY

1		ABUHAIL D Morley 9-0	J Weaver 11
2	00	EDDIE ROMBO 19 N Tinkler 9-0	Kim Tinkler 10
3	03	ELJJANAH 21 J Dunlop 9-0	G Carter 9
4		JAGO M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin (3) 3
5	006	PRINCE NICHOLAS 14 K Hogg 9-0	M Gallagher 5
6	2	RIOJA 32 T Tate 9-0	A Mackay 4
7	0	TARASHAAN 7 M Prescott 9-0	J Carroll 1
8	5	WATKINS 32 F Murphy 9-0	J Fanning 2
9		WISHBONE ALLEY M Dods 9-0	Alex Greaves 6
10		LADY ROCHELLE T Easterby 8-9	L Charnock 7
11		PRIOLETTE J FitzGerald 8-9	A Culhane 8

10-11 Eljjanah, 5-1 Abuhail, 6-1 Rioja, 10-1 Tarashaan, 12-1 Lady Rochelle, 16-1 Priolette, 20-1 Eddie Rombo, Jago, Prince Nicholas, Watkins, 25-1 Wishbone Alley

7.45 CELLNET RIVERSIDE STADIUM HANDICAP (£3,769: 2m 4yd) (11)
SKY

1	5311	FORGIE 19 (C,F,G,S) P Calver 4-9-10	Darren Moffatt (3) 8
2	1450	DIRAB 21 (C,D,F,G,S) T Barron 4-9-10	Victoria Appleby (7) 3
3	-012	HULLBANK 33 (BF,C,D,F) W Haigh 7-9-7	A Culhane 9
4	0400	HIGHFLYING 33 (C,D,F,G,S) G M Moore 11-9-5	T E Durcan (5) 6
5	4132	HERE COMES HERBIE 7 (D,G,S) W Storey 5-9-2	P Fessey (3) 1
6	5303	GREAT ORATION 7 (D,F) F Watson 8-9-1	J Weaver 10
7	0150	SALSKA 7 (C,F,G) A Streeter 6-8-12	R Havlin (3) 5
8	4020	SPA LANE 10 (F,S) M Bielby 4-8-7	D R McCabe 2
9	-006	ALWARDA 10 (F) M Wane 4-8-4	A Mackay 11
10	00-2	NEEDWOOD EPIC 31 B Morgan 4-8-2	G Carter 4
11	0342	HIGHFIELD FIZZ 4 (C,F,S) C Fairhurst 5-7-10	L Charnock 7

4-1 Here Comes Herbie, 5-1 Dirab, Hullbank, 6-1 Forgie, 7-1 Highflying, Highfield Fizz, 8-1 Great Oration, 10-1 others

8.15 MIDDLESBROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,338: 5f) (14)
SKY

1	3606	GUNNERS GLORY 15 (B,D,F) B Meehan 9-7	T E Durcan (5) 6
2	5258	NORTHERN SAL 33 (D,S) Miss L Perratt 9-3	J Carroll 12
3	0240	MUNICIPAL GIRL 26 (G) B Palling 9-3	D Sweeney (5) 1
4	3320	DONNA'S DANCER 16 (B) N Tinkler 9-1	Kim Tinkler 5
5	0500	TORONTO 12 (B,D,F) J Berry 9-1	G Carter 7
6	0040	LUNAR MUSIC 33 (B,D,F) Ron Thompson 8-13	J Weaver 3
7	0423	COLLEGE PRINCESS 19 (BF) S C Williams 8-12	D Williams (7) 9
8	00-4	FLO'S CHOICE 18 J O'Reilly 8-11	J O'Reilly 14
9	605	HOT NEWS 22 (V) J Jenkins 8-10	Dale Gibson 2
10	0-00	EMMAS BREEZE 63 (D,F) G Margarson 8-10	M Fenton 13
11	-040	MELBOURNE PRINCESS 19 R Whitaker 8-8	A Culhane 8
12	-060	M T VESSEL 15 (B) J Jenkins 8-7	D Wright 4
13	00-0	RISKY FLIGHT 87 A Smith 8-3	P Fessey (3) 10
14	-002	HILTONS EXECUTIVE 19 E Alston 8-1	L Charnock 11

7-2 College Princess, 9-2 Gunners Glory, 5-1 Municipal Girl, 7-1 Melbourne Princess, Hiltons Executive, 8-1 Northern Sal, Donna's Dancer, 10-1 others.

8.45 RIVERSIDE ROAR LIMITED STAKES (£2,786: 1m 1f) (5)
SKY

1	2400	BEANO SCRIPT 2 J Hanson 4-9-6	E Johnson 5
2	30-0	TILAAL 75 M Hammond 5-9-6	J Carroll 2
3	5002	QUEENS CONSUL 39 (BF,F,G) B Rothwell 7-9-2	M Fenton 3
4	3502	NIGHT MIRAGE 14 M Johnston 3-8-8	J Weaver 4
5	2044	SMART SPIRIT 11 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 3-8-8	A Culhane 1

7-4 Night Mirage, 15-8 Queens Consul, 3-1 Smart Spirit, 8-1 Tilaal, 10-1 Beano Script.

9.15 STEVE GIBSON HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,821: 1m 3f) (6)

1	0336	KAYFIYAH 17 D Morley 9-7	G Carter 5
2	0350	NOBEL LAD 43 J Dunlop 9-3	J Carroll 2
3	6243	BALLY SOUZA 16 M Johnston 9-2	J Weaver 4
4	d326	MARDREW 8 R Harris 8-8	R Havlin (3) 3
5	0213	QUEZON CITY 18 (BF,F) M Camacho 8-0	L Charnock 1
6	006-	ROCK THE CASBAH 220 J Hetherton 7-10	D Wright 6

11-4 Bally Souza, 3-1 Nobel Lad, 7-2 Kayfiyah, Quezon City, 5-1 Mardrew, 12-1 Rock The Casbah

AYR

THUNDERER

6.55 Epic Stand. 7.25 Captain Scott. 7.55 Althib. 8.25 Stackattack. 8.55 Regal Revolution. 9.25 Dawam Allail.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.55 HOURSTONS OF AYR AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,998: 1m 1f) (14 runners)
SKY

1	0P42	GOLD BLADE 14 (C,D,F,G) J Pearce 8-11-7	Mrs L Pearce 10
2	5000	SABU 14 J Charlton 5-11-7	R Hale 14
3	2231	EPIC STAND 58 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 3-11-6	Miss E Ramsden (4) 7
4	5003	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 20 (G,S) J Watts 9-10-13	C Bonner 11
5	5461	RIGHTY HO 23 (S) P Walwyn 3-10-12	Miss S Samworth (4) 2
6	0-00	TALENTED TING 24 (V,C,D,F,G) P Haslam 8-10-3	Mrs C Williams (4) 5
7	-404	CHARISSE DANCER 9 C Thornton 4-9-13	J Crowley (6) 13
8	0000	NAPOLEON'S RETURN 68 (V,C,F) J Eyre 4-9-12	Miss D Jones 1
9	-040	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 11 J Goldie 5-9-5	Miss A Deniel (4) 6
10	5000	HUTCHIES LADY 8 (S) R McKellar 5-9-3	C Russell (6) 9
11	/063	MARZOCCO 23 (F) T Cuthbert 9-9-0	Miss H Cuthbert (6) 8
12	0445	MAURANGI 11 (B,C,F,G) B Murray 6-9-0	Mrs C Ford (4) 4
13	05-5	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 8 D Nolan 7-9-0	Miss D Carner (6) 3
14	0-00	AYE READY 8 (B) D Nolan 4-9-0	Mrs D Wilkinson (6) 12

2-1 Epic Stand, 9-2 Righty Ho, 6-1 Gold Blade, 8-1 Sagebrush Roller, Charisse Dancer, 10-1 Maurangi, 12-1 Talented Ting, 14-1 others.

7.25 BUTE HOUSE NURSING HOME LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,404: 1m 2f) (7)
SKY

1	1402	BABY JANE 24 (F,G) B Mactaggart 9-1	S Copp (5) 6
2	185	CAPTAIN SCOTT 65 J Glover 9-1	J Fortune 3
3	0510	CONTENTMENT 21 (D,G) J Hills 9-1	M Henry (3) 4
4	8-21	RAMUE 30 (D,F) E Weymes 9-1	Dean McKeown 1
5	0085	SHARE DELIGHT 22 (F) B Hills 9-1	J D Smith (3) 5
6	-244	BRAVE MONTGOMERIE 29 (C,F) Miss L Perratt 8-12	N Kennedy 2
7	434-	FERNY HILL 280 M Prescott 8-12	K Darley 7

3-1 Ramue, 4-1 Captain Scott, Share Delight, 9-2 Ferny Hill, 5-1 Contentment, 7-1 Brave Montgomerie, 10-1 Baby Jane.

7.55 E B F SUNDAY MAIL MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,518: 6f) (7)
SKY

1	2	ALTHIB 17 (BF) M Stoute 9-0	K Darley 5
2	22	BOLD KING 14 J Hills 9-0	M Henry (3) 2
3	6	DEFIANCE 12 B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (3) 6
4	4	FRIAR TUCK 15 Miss L Perratt 9-0	N Kennedy 3
5		MISS SALSA DANCER D Smith 8-9	J Fortune 1
6		SI SENORITA B Mactaggart 8-9	Dean McKeown 7
7	05	SOLO SONG 59 D Nolan 8-9	R Winston (7) 4

4-5 Althib, 2-1 Bold King, 6-1 Defiance, 12-1 Friar Tuck, 14-1 others.

8.25 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE (Handicap: (£5,576: 7f) (11)
SKY

1	0240	PERSIAN FAYRE 21 (C,D,F,G) J Berry 5-9-13	M Henry (3) 4
2	0-05	ALMUHIMM 56 (D,F) T Barron 5-9-11	K Darley 7
3	0530	MAGIC MILL 21 (D,F) J Eyre 4-9-10	D Pears 5
4	3314	GREY KINGDOM 7 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 6-9-5	D Mernagh (7) 2
5	-000	FOR YOUR EYES ONLY 21 (F) T Easterby 3-9-3	Dean McKeown 9
6	1101	STACKATTACK 7 (D,F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-3	J Fortune 6
7	4650	ROYAL CEILIDH 21 (D,F,G) D Smith 4-9-2	J Lowe 3
8	5203	COLWAY RITZ 11 J Watts 3-8-12	N Connorton 11
9	0116	SMOKEY FROM CAPLAW 50 (BF,F) J J O'Neill 3-8-11	R Lappin 1
10	0000	MBULWA 3 (C,D,F,G,S) R Fahey 11-7-12	R Winston (7) 8
11	1120	MISTER WESTSOUND 7 (B,CD) Miss Perratt 5-7-10	N Kennedy 10

11-4 Stackattack, 5-1 Grey Kingdom, 8-1 Persian Fayre, Almuhimm, For Your Eyes Only, 10-1 Magic Mill, Colway Ritz, Smokey From Caplaw, 12-1 others.

8.55 BAILEYS ORIGINAL IRISH CREAM NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,469: 6f) (4)

1	1224	SANDSIDE 15 (F,S) J Berry 9-7	K Darley 4
2	134	SEA MAGIC 14 (S) B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (3) 2
3	121	PIERPOINT 8 (F) R Fahey 8-13	R Winston (7) 1
4	21	REGAL REVOLUTION 10 (D,G) P Walwyn 8-6	J Lowe 3

7-4 Regal Revolution, 5-2 Pierpoint, 11-4 Sea Magic, 4-1 Sandside.

9.25 DAILY RECORD MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,371: 1m) (4)

1	2232	DAWAM ALLAIL 15 M Jarvis 3-8-12	J Fortune 2
2	0000	CHANSON D'AMOUR 5 Miss L Perratt 3-8-7	N Kennedy 3
3	64	HANAJIR 12 C Thornton 3-8-7	Dean McKeown 1
4	3	POLENKA 44 J Watts 3-8-7	K Darley 4

4-6 Dawam Allail, 5-2 Polenka, 9-2 Hanajir, 25-1 Chanson d'Amour.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

6.35 Northern Judge. 7.05 High Sheriff. 7.35 Kaiser Kache. 8.05 Mousehole. 8.35 Le Grand Gousier. 9.05 All In Leather.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.35 CLASSIC COTTAGE CARNIVAL APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,407: 7f) (13 runners)

1	0-00	ROCK SYMPHONY 24 (F,G) W Haggas 7-10-0	R Studholme 7
2	6001	WHATEVER'S RIGHT 12 (CD,F) M Usher 8-9-12	G Hannon (5) 13
3	0100	KING ATHELSTAN 24 (C,F) B McMahon 9-9-5	S Righton (6) 3
4	0006	HAVAGO 17 (D,S) R Hannon 3-9-0	R Smith (8) 6
5	2044	HEVER GOLF MOVER 26 (F) T Naughton 3-8-13	R Moody (8) 12
6	0025	THE BARNSLEY BELLE 12 (D) J Eyre 4-8-3	S Buckley (8) 2
7	-000	GULF OF SIAM 26 E Wheeler 4-8-3	S Carson (6) 11
8	0040	NORTHERN JUDGE 15 (B,D,G) A James 4-8-0	J Fowle (3) 10
9	0006	DISPAST 22 (D,G) J Bridger 7-7-13	P Doe 1
10	120-	LEGUARD EXPRESS 409 (B,CD,F) O O'Neill 9-7-11	P Fredericks 5
11	00-0	PRESS AGAIN 26 P Hayward 5-7-11	D Hayden (5) 8
12	0062	DR WOODSTOCK 8 M Meade 3-7-10	R Brisland (8) 4
13	0-00	FAIRLY SURE 24 (F) N Berry 4-7-10	P Bradley (5) 9

3-1 Whatever's Right, 11-2 King Athelstan, Hever Golf Mover, 10-1 others.

7.05 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,408: 7f) (15)

1	0	ZURYAF 7 B Meehan 8-12	M Tebbutt 4
2	2	HIGH SHERIFF 17 W Haggas 8-10	K Fallon 2
3	0	MYSTAGOGUE 14 R Hannon 8-9	Dane O'Neill 6
4	0	PETANE 14 J Arnold 8-9	A Whelan (3) 1
5	06	COOL SECRET 14 A Mulholland 8-7	M Roberts 11
6	0	ESPRESSO 83 J Hills 8-6	N Adams 3
7		LUCKY MYST C Brittain 8-6	W J O'Connor 5
8	0	SAINT ALBERT 14 (V) F Walwyn 8-6	D Holland 14
9	234	MUFTUFFENUF 28 P Webber 8-3	D Harrison 12
10		STALWART LEGION J Hills 8-3	G Duffield 9
11	00	MISS SKYE 17 T Naughton 8-2	T Sprake 15
12	050	DANCE TO THE BEAT 11 M Meade 8-1	F Norton 13
13	00	PRIMAVERA 14 M Haynes 8-1	J F Egan 7
14	0	BELLE DE MONTFORT 12 J Spearing 8-0	N Varley 8
15	0	MAKE IT SO 45 J S Moore 7-13	R Mullen (5) 10

6-5 High Sheriff, 11-2 Dance To The Beat, Muftuffenuf, Mystagogue 8-1 others.

7.35 KING OF COTTAGES LIMITED STAKES
(£3,646: 7f) (10)

1	6204	ALAMEIN 3 (B,D,F,G) W Haggas 4-9-3	K Fallon 4
2	504-	CONSORT 280 (BF,D,F) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-3	A Clark 1
3	-505	DIVINA LUNA 7 (CD,F,G) J Hills 4-9-0	M Roberts 6
4	0-03	VOLLEY 37 (F) D Chappell 4-9-0	D Harrison 5
5	0100	KAISER KACHE 32 (D,F,S) K McAuliffe 3-8-12	J F Egan 9
6	5001	DAYVILLE 8 (F) J Berry 3-8-11	D Holland 7
7	5041	DUNDEL 28 (D,G) B Hills 3-8-9	R French (3) 10
8	4303	APACHE STAR 18 (V,D,S) G Wragg 3-8-7	M Hills 3
9	3023	ARRUHAN 11 (F) P Walwyn 3-8-7	R Hills 2
10	043-	THE IN-LAWS 266 (D,F) M Prescott 3-8-7	G Duffield 8

4-1 Dundel, 5-1 Divina Luna, 6-1 Alamein, Arruhan, 13-2 Volley, 10-1 others

8.05 DAVID WINTER INTERNATIONAL MOUSE LIMITED STAKES (£3,018: 5f) (10)

1	0000	CAPTAIN SINBAD 7 (B) K Bridgwater 5-9-2	V Slattery 8
2	0040	DEPRECIATE 16 (V,G) C James 4-9-2	C Rutter 6
3	0-00	IMPOSING TIME 16 (V,D,F) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-2	R Ffrench (3) 7
4	4202	MOUSEHOLE 10 (D,F) R Guest 5-9-2	P Bloomfield 2
5	0310	SUPERLAO 10 (D,F,S) J Bridger 5-9-2	P Doe (7) 3
6	5052	TUSCAN DAWN 9 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-2	P Roberts (5) 1
7	-566	WINDRUSH BOY 7 (CD,F) M Bosley 7-9-2	Aimee Cook (5) 4
8	-005	ANOTHER BATCHWORTH 25 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 5-8-13	A Daly (5) 10
9	3006	BRIN-LODGE 22 (B) K Bridgwater 4-8-13	S Drowne 5
10	0036	TART AND A HALF 14 (B,D,F) J Eyre 5-8-13	K Fallon 9

9-4 Mousehole, 3-1 Tuscan Dawn, 4-1 Tart And A Half, 5-1 Another Batchworth 8-1 Depreciate, Imposing Time, 16-1 Windrush Boy, 20-1 others

8.35 DAVID WINTER FAIRYTALE CHALLENGE SELLING HANDICAP (£1,985: 1m 4f 115yd) (10)

1	1241	ARZANI 7 (C,G) D Cosgrove 6-10-0	M Rimmer 2
2	4283	RISKY ROSE 3 (F,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-13	D Griffiths (3) 5
3	5202	LE GRAND GOUSIER 5 R Williams 3-8-10	M Hills 6
4	0604	WHOTHEHELLISHARRY 7 P Dalton 4-8-7	P McCabe (3) 9
5	-040	I'M A NUT MAN 36 C Smith 6-8-7	C Rutter 10
6	4050	MONIS 33 (F) Ron Thompson 6-8-6	T Williams 7
7	0-53	EXCELLED 12 (F) C Drewe 8-8-1	T Sprake 1
8	0000	SCOTTISH PARK 15 (B,F,S) M Pipe 8-8-1	A Polli (5) 8
9	0060	GRACIOUS IMP 22 J Jenkins 4-7-13	J Quinn 3
10	-600	BRESIL 12 (D,F) J Bridger 8-7-10	P Doe (7) 4

5-4 Arzani, 7-2 Le Grand Gousier, 13-2 Excelled, 7-1 Whothehellisharry, 8-1 Risky Rose, Monis, Scottish Park, 10-1 others

9.05 RICHARD III CLASSIC HANDICAP
(3-Y-O. £3,614: 1m 2f 169yd) (6)

1	4435	PENNYS FROM HEAVEN 18 (B,BF) H Candy 9-7	C Rutter 1
2	66-3	DEAD AIM 22 I Balding 9-3	B Doyle 6
3	333-	ALL IN LEATHER 278 W Haggas 9-3	K Fallon 2
4	4003	BEGORRAT 7 B Meehan 9-2	M Tebbutt 4
5	-526	TANGSHAN 8 (BF) M Stoute 8-10	M Hills 5
6	0002	SILVERY 14 J Toller 7-10	J Quinn 3

11-4 Tangshan, 3-1 Pennys From Heaven, Dead Aim, 9-2 Begorrat, 6-1 others

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to firm

2.30 (6f 8yd) 1, ARIANT (L Dettori, 4-11 fav); 2, Sabhaan (R Hills, 7-1); 3, Night Owl (T Sprake, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Overture, 12 Guaranteed, Tumbleweed Prospect (4th), 16 Pips Song (6th), Storm Fromthe East, 33 Double Brandy (5th), Muyassir. 10 ran. Nk, 1¼l, 1¼l, nk, hd. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.90, £3.50. DF: £5.80. Trio: £31.90. CSF: £4.49.

3.00 (7f 64yd) 1, DECORATED HERO (L Dettori, 2-1 fav); 2, Restructure (M Roberts, 8-1); 3, My Branch (Pat Eddery, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Hidden Meadow (4th), 8 Easy Dollar (6th), 16 Cayman Kai (5th), 20 Mithali, 100 Raheen. 8 ran. Nk, 6l, 1l, nk, 7l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £2.80, £1.40. DF: £16.60. CSF: £17.54.

3.30 (5f 34yd) 1, BAYLEAF (J Reid, 8-1); 2, Cloudberry (M Tebbutt, 20-1); 3, Thanksgiving (G Carter, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Kenkan, 11-2 Delphic Way, First Village, 6 Quiz Show (4th), 15-2 Alpha Whisky (5th), 8 Madame Claude, 12 First Dance, 14 To Love With Love, 50 Belle de Nuit (6th). 12 ran. Hd, 2l, 1¾l, sh hd, hd. R Johnson Houghton at Didcot. Tote: £15.80; £3.40, £5.00, £7.20. DF: £119.40. Trio: £539.70. CSF: £150.74. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.00 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, ENLISTED (G Duffield, 6-1); 2, Boss Lady (Pat Eddery, 4-1); 3, Inclination (J Quinn, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Kazranga, 8 Sellette (6th), 10 Vanishing Trick, 12 Santa Rosa, 14 Lonely Heart (4th), 16 Bellagrana, Fantastic Flame (5th), Julietta Mia. 11 ran. ½l, 1½l, ¾l, nk, sh hd. M Prescott at Newmarket. Tote: £7.70; £2.30, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £14.20. Trio: £34.30. CSF: £28.78. Tricast: £182.29.

4.30 (6f 8yd) 1, LITERARY SOCIETY (S Sanders, 6-1); 2, Sir Joey (S Drowne, 8-1); 3, Always Alight (J Quinn, 11-2 fav); 4, Loving And Giving (C Rutter, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Out Line (5th), 11 Marl, 12 Cauda Equina, Never Think Twice, 16 La Petite Fusee, Lady Diesis, Law Commission (6th), Lord Olivier, 20 Desert Lynx, Tailwind, 25 Charlie Sillett, 33 Scissor Ridge. 16 ran. Sh hd, ½l, ½l, hd, sh hd. J Toller at Newmarket. Tote: £5.60; £2.10, £2.30, £1.30, £3.60. DF: £17.60. Trio: £36.10. CSF: £45.65. Tricast: £269.76.

5.00 (2m) 1, CAPTAIN JACK (M Roberts, 5-1); 2, Premier Night (J Reid, 13-2); 3, Thaljanah (R Cochrane, 9-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Russian Rose (5th), 11-2 Nanton Point (4th), 20 Chief Mouse (6th). 6 ran. 1¾l, sh hd, 1¾l, 2½l, ¾l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £5.50; £1.80, £3.10. DF: £14.10. CSF: £31.26.

5.30 (7f) 1, WAYPOINT (S Sanders, 12-1); 2, Sheltering Sky (Pat Eddery, 3-1 fav); 3, Blue Flyer (A McGlone, 33-1); 4, Ibis (M Hills, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Dulcinea, 12 Duello (5th), 14 Winsome Wooster, Zugudi, 16 Sea Danzig, 20 Davids Revenge, Lynton Lad, O Factor (6th), Xenophon of Cunaxa, Zelda Zonk, 25 Civil Liberty, Gliko, Morocco, Press On Nicky, 33 Frederick James. 19 ran. 1¾l, 3½l, 1l, nk, hd. R Charlton at Beckhampton. Tote: £14.90; £2.60, £1.50, £8.60, £4.40. DF: £26.50. Trio: £1,121.90. CSF: £35.98. Tricast: £826.49.

Jackpot: £16,013.20 - part won. Pool of £20,524.03 carried forward to Newbury today.

Placepot: £729.80. Quadpot: £253.80.

Musselburgh

Going: good to firm

2.40 (5f) 1, ORIEL GIRL (J F Egan, 7-4); 2, Always Lucky (T E Durcan, 6-4 fav); 3, Slew Magic (S Carson, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Junior Muffin, 14 Dispol Emerald (5th), 66 Ngaere Princess (6th), Pride of Bryn (4th). 7 ran. 1¼l, 2l, 1¼l, 2l, 2½l. P Evans at Welshpool. Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £1.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.10.

3.10 (1m 4f) 1, CLASSIC BALLET (C Lowther, 7-1); 2, Kernof (J Carroll, 8-1); 3, Shergy (J Fortune, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Suga Hawk (6th), 4 Oberons Boy, 7 Essayeffsee (4th), 12 Forzair, 14 General Glow, Lord Advocate (5th), 25 Get A Life, Raifisa. 11 ran. Hd, 3l, hd, 3½l, 1¼l. R Guest at Newmarket. Tote: £6.80; £2.00, £2.90, £9.30. DF: £34.30. Trio: £233.20. CSF: £57.95.

3.40 (2m) 1, THUNDERHEART (K Darley, 8-1); 2, Bold Elect (J F Egan, 7-1); 3, Marsayas (L Charnock, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Vintage Taittinger (6th), 6 Charity Crusader (4th), 13-2 Winnebago, 9 Gymcrak Tiger (5th), 14 Wellcome Inn, 20 Cois Na Farraige, Gymcrak Cyrano, Valiant Dash, 25 Well Armed, 50 Breydon, Meadow Blue, 100 Operatic Dancer. 15 ran. 1l, ¾l, 1½l, ¾l, 2l. R Allan at Cornhill-on-Tweed. Tote: £9.00; £4.20, £2.10, £4.60. DF: £33.60. Trio: £261.20. CSF: £65.76. Tricast: £533.51.

4.10 (5f) 1, PALACEGATE JACK (T E Durcan, 8-1); 2, Goretski (P Roberts, 11-10 fav); 3, Silk Cottage (Dean McKeown, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Pallium (4th), Six For Luck (5th), 10 Another Nightmare (6th). 6 ran. ½l, nk, 2l, 1½l, 2l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £7.10; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £3.90. CSF: £14.21.

4.40 (7f 30yd) 1, CAPTAIN BLISS (R Winston, 3-1); 2, Anniemitchellslass (Darren Moffatt, 10-1); 3, Cosmic Case (T Williams, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Maraschino Don (4th), 12 Wee Christy (6th), 16 Full Moon, 20 Ludere (5th), 25 Gay da Cheen, La Vaso Verdi, Petite Tache, 33 Ingle Boy. 11 ran. 5l, sh hd, 3l, 7l, hd. T Tinkler at Malton. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.60, £2.40. DF: £7.50. Trio: £29.80. CSF: £12.35. Husleen (7-4) withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 35p in the pound.

5.10 (1m) 1, SECONDS AWAY (T Williams, 14-1); 2, Spanish Verdict (C Teague, 12-1); 3, Needle Match (D Pears, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Bowcliffe (6th), 7-2 Nkapen Rocks, 6 Legal Issue (5th), 9 Tissue of Lies, 12 Bulsara, Champagne N Dreams (4th), 20 Don't Worry Mike, 33 King of Show, 40 Midday Cowboy, 100 Celia's Rainbow, 150 Thorntoun Jewel. 14 ran. ½l, ½l, ½l, 2½l, hd. J Goldie at Kilmarnock. Tote: £11.80; £2.40, £3.10, £6.80. DF: £75.70. Trio: £263.10 - part won. Pool of £3.71 carried forward to Newbury today. CSF: £164.16. Tricast: £2,508.23.

Placepot: £822.80. Quadpot: £263.50.

Southwell

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Dandie Imp (B Powell, 7-4 fav); 2, Beyerd (15-2); 3, Telmar Systems (25-1). 7 ran. 8l, dist. A Carroll. Tote: £3.90; £1.30, £2.20. DF: £9.50. CSF: £12.92.

2.50 (2m ch) 1, Jazzy Refrain (A Maguire, 11-2); 2, Brambleberry (4-1); 3, Know-No-No (9-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Stapleford Lady. 9l, 13l. L Wells. Tote: £6.20; £1.10, £1.40, £1.40. DF: £16.80. Trio: £13.80. CSF: £23.04. Tricast: £49.93.

3.20 (2m hdle) 1, Roderick Hudson (A P McCoy, 4-5 fav); 2, Frisky Thyne (6-1); 3, Belle Bush (8-1). 5 ran. Sh hd, 17l. J Toller. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.90.

3.50 (2m hdle) 1, Punkah (R Studholme, 11-10 fav); 2, Lightning Quest (3-1); 3, Alpha Leather (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Global Dancer. 14l, 1l. G McCourt. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £1.80. CSF: £4.86.

4.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Furietto (R Garritty, Evens fav); 2, Mel (9-2); 3, Sophie Lockett (40-1). 5 ran. 1¾l, dist. M Hammond. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.94. Henrietta Boo Boo (12-1) withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in the pound.

4.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Bullens Bay (A P McCoy, 5-4 fav); 2, New Statesman (15-8); 3, Script (6-1). 5 ran. 1¼l, 20l. B Llewellyn. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.60. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.05.

Placepot: £4.90. Quadpot: £2.90.

Dettori warms up in style for wedding

FRANKIE DETTORI, who marries his fiancee, *Katherine* Allen, tomorrow, warmed up for the big event with a short-priced double aboard the John Gosden-trained pair, Ariant and Decorated Hero, at Newbury yesterday.

Decorated Hero, who acts as *Benny The Dip's* lead horse at home, was forced to pull out all the stops for a neck verdict over Restructure in the Watermill Stakes.

But Gosden was full of praise for his charge's win, saying: "That was a good effort as the ground is probably on the fast side for him. He could come back here for the Hungerford Stakes or go to York for the City of York Stakes next month."

Making his debut, Ariant arrived at the Berkshire course with a big home reputation and his starting price of 11-4 on reflected that in the Ecchinswell Novice Stakes. But he had to work hard in the closing stages to fend off the challenge of Sabhaan.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Ayr

TRAINERS: B Hills, 20 winners from 55 runners, 36.4%; M Stoute, 9 from 27, 33.3%; M Prescott, 5 from 22, 22.7%; Mrs J Ramsden, 10 from 63, 15.9%; J Watts, 8 from 65, 12.3%; J Eyre, 3 from 25, 12.0%; E Weymes, 5 from 42, 11.9%; T Barron, 7 from 65, 10.8%.

JOCKEYS: K Darley, 35 winners from 169 rides, 20.7%; J Fortune, 13 from 129, 10.1%. Only qualifiers.

Redcar

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 11 winners from 29 runners, 37.9%; J Dunlop, 12 from 43, 27.9%; B Meehan, 3 from 12, 25.0%; S Williams, 4 from 27, 14.8%; P Calver, 7 from 54, 13.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 43 from 336, 12.8%; T Barron, 10 from 82, 12.2%

JOCKEYS: G Carter, 12 winners from 65 rides, 18.5%; J Weaver, 17 from 121, 14.0%; J Carroll, 17 from 138, 12.3%

Warwick

TRAINERS: Miss G Kelleway, 7 winners from 19 runners, 36.8%; W Haggas, 3 from 11, 27.3%; M Pipe, 10 from 40, 25.0%; J Hills, 5 from 22, 22.7%; M Stoute, 5 from 25, 20.0%; P Walwyn, 4 from 20, 20.0%; R Williams, 3 from 19, 15.8%; J Berry, 11 from 75, 14.7%.

JOCKEYS: M Hills, 12 winners from 60 rides, 20.0%; G Duffield, 8 from 44, 18.2%; M Rimmer, 4 from 23, 17.4%

FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME.

To yours.

ITF starts July 28th.

CRICKET: DAY OF OBSCURE RECORDS FOR TOILING HAMPSHIRE BATSMEN

Aymes checks Surrey's advance

BY SIMON WILDE

GUILDFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs ahead of Surrey

HAMPSHIRE have had some pretty miserable days this season and, for a long time, yesterday promised to rank among the blackest. By 4.45pm they were 71 for seven in their second innings, following on 174 behind, and had lost 12 wickets in three hours' play, an hour having been lost to a midday shower.

At that point, though, the Mr Hyde side of their personality slipped away and up popped Dr Jekyll. For the rest of the day, they fought tooth and nail to stay in the game, principally through an eighth-wicket partnership of 123 between Adrian Aymes and Simon Renshaw, both of whom — remarkably — recorded season's best scores for the second time in the day.

When they came together, Surrey could be forgiven for letting their focus slip, so feeble was the resistance that they had met. Their fielding became lax and their bowlers went through the motions, but a slow pitch remained basically sound and, once their eyes were in, Aymes and Renshaw made batting look easy again and Adam Hollioake, the Surrey captain, was forced to shuffle his bowlers.

Eventually, and much to Surrey's relief, Hollioake had Renshaw leg-before for 56, but Milburn kept Aymes company until the close, at which stage Hampshire were 227 for eight, 53 ahead. Surrey should still win, but Milburn can bat and Aymes, unbeaten on 83 after three hours, will relish extending their discomfort.

Aymes had provided almost solitary resistance when Hampshire lost their five remaining first-innings wickets earlier in the day, batting 2½ hours for 45 before being eighth out. So poorly did the Hampshire top order bat second time around that he was back at the crease within 90 minutes, the scoreboard reading 24 for five.

Credit for this must go to Martin Bicknell, who produced a spell of four for two in 25 balls, but, well as he bowled, Hampshire gave him a helping hand. Hayden had one of his abberations, padding up to his second ball, and James repeated the error to a lavish inswinger. Laney, loosely aiming an off drive, played into his stumps.

Most remarkable, though, was the performance of Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, who, reports suggest, is feeling the pressure of his job. Given a reprieve before he had scored, he seemed intent on hitting his way out of trouble, with predictable results. Having lashed two fours through the covers, Tudor fed him a short ball which he hooked into the hands of long leg.

A good day for Aymes, Hampshire's wicketkeeper, was the reverse for Surrey's, Stewart taking a blow in the face an hour into the day, a ball from Salisbury flicking up off Renshaw's pad and gashing him under the right eye. He is confident of being fit for the fourth Test match next week, but did not keep again, Butcher taking his place.

GILL ALLEN

Stewart carries the scars of war yesterday, but is confident of playing in the fourth Test match next week

Leicestershire drawn into gambling game

BY JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Leicestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 345 runs to beat Kent

A DAY of praiseworthy endeavour from both teams, to create something of this rain-affected match, ended with less being achieved on the field than in the pavilion. The machinations of the captains resulted in agreement by Steve Marsh, the Kent captain, not to enforce the follow-on if James Whitaker declared, which he did, after batting for 40 overs and when Leicestershire had scored 160 for four.

This left them the small matter of 338 runs behind Kent's first innings — Marsh having declared at the overnight 593 for eight — or still 189 short of the follow-on figure. Then Marsh declared a second time after facing all of five overs, leaving Leciestershire finally to score 365 from a likely 105 overs. It is a run chase weighted towards Kent, as it should be. Without Kent's declarations, Leicestershire were on a hiding to nothing.

Leicestershire have now lost more than 1,450 overs to the weather, have drawn all their matches except against Hampshire, which they won, and are short of points with which to defend their title. For them, almost any gamble was worth the candle.

Before Whitaker and Johnson came together in an enterprising partnership of 99 for the fourth wicket, it looked as though Leicestershire might well be scuppered by orthodox means. Once Thompson got his outswinger going, he removed both Wells and Maddy and, when Fleming uprooted Sutcliffe's middle stump, by way of an inside edge, three were down for 39.

What may well turn out to be the catch of the season by Strang at deep mid-off had accounted for Wells, but then came Johnson with 72 from 75 balls. A good effort from Whitaker ended with another fine catch, this time by Fulton at short leg. After that, a flurry of declarations. Now, everything depends on the weather.

Robinson adds light relief to a slow day

BY RICHARD HOBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, need 104 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Lancashire

CRANES have been installed at Old Trafford to hoist floodlights over the stands for the day-night Roses match next Monday. Their presence is proof of the initiatives that are being taken to woo new spectators to the sport.

The contest yesterday would have put any newcomer off for life. Sussex played the better cricket, but, despite fielding lethargically, Lancashire remain strongly positioned to secure their third successive championship win.

Following on 254 behind, Sussex at least applied themselves with more purpose than in their first innings. Bill Athey, in particular, was at his stubborn best in grinding out a half-century.

Nine years after his last appearance for England, he remains one of the most obdurate batsmen in the country. He was not off the mark until his fortieth delivery and was missed by Atherton at backward short leg after dashing along to two. Yet, in conditions that were beginning to assist the spinners — so much so that Atherton bowled leg breaks for the first time this season — Athey's technique held firm. The earth shook in disbelief when he drove expansively at Yates to be bowled between bat and pad five minutes before the close.

Earlier, Rao and Lenham had fallen in successive overs, the former to a splendid leg-side catch by Hegg, standing back to Gallian, while Taylor went attempting to steer Yates past slip.

Watkinson accounted for three of the five Sussex wickets at the end of the first innings, though Austin was responsible for the removal of Newell for 74. Drakes perished attempting to counter-attack, but by far the most interesting — and amusing — innings was played by Robinson, the archetypal rabbit, who smote a career-best 27. He was rewarded by being cast as nightwatchman in the second innings.

Smith and Young expose deception

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELTENHAM (third day of four): Gloucestershire (24pts) beat Derbyshire (4) by an innings and 35 runs

FOR much of an overcast morning, Derbyshire showed sufficient resolve to suggest that they might take this match well into its final day. It was a brief deception. By the time that the sun came out, an hour after lunch, this lovely ground was deserted.

It was appropriate that the two men who dominated the game, Mike Smith and Shaun Young, should bring about its abrupt end. It was equally fitting that Derbyshire should surrender their last four wickets for four runs, as their cricket here has been abysmal.

An honourable exception was Kim Barnett, who rose above his personal conflict with the club to perform noble service. He made almost half of the first-innings runs and, yesterday, was six short of a deserved century when the fall of his wicket effectively signalled the end.

Derbyshire are badly in need of cheer, so the news that Dominic Cork is accelerating his comeback will be especially welcome. Only five weeks after a groin operation thought likely to keep him out for the season, Cork plans to play in a second-team fixture on Monday and is hoping to win a place in the quarter-final of the NatWest Trophy next week, as a specialist batsman.

He can hardly fare worse than some who played here. The fourth-wicket stand of 121 between Barnett and Vandrau was no more than an inconvenience to the home side and Young, despite being bowled sparingly due to a hamstring problem, dispatched Barnett and Clarke in successive balls and almost bowled Krikken for a hat-trick. When Vandrau was well caught at second slip, Young had taken three for four, and only some defiant blows from DeFreitas delayed the inevitable.

Smith returned to take three of the last four wickets and complete match figures of ten for 106. His next first-class match should be the Headingley Test. Gloucestershire, meanwhile, remain among the leaders, but it is a mystery why the first game of the Cheltenham Festival, played on one of the truest pitches in England, has now been over before tea on the third day for three successive years.

Scarborough far from fair for irate Boon

SCARBOROUGH (third day of four): Yorkshire (24pts) beat Durham (4) by an innings and 56 runs

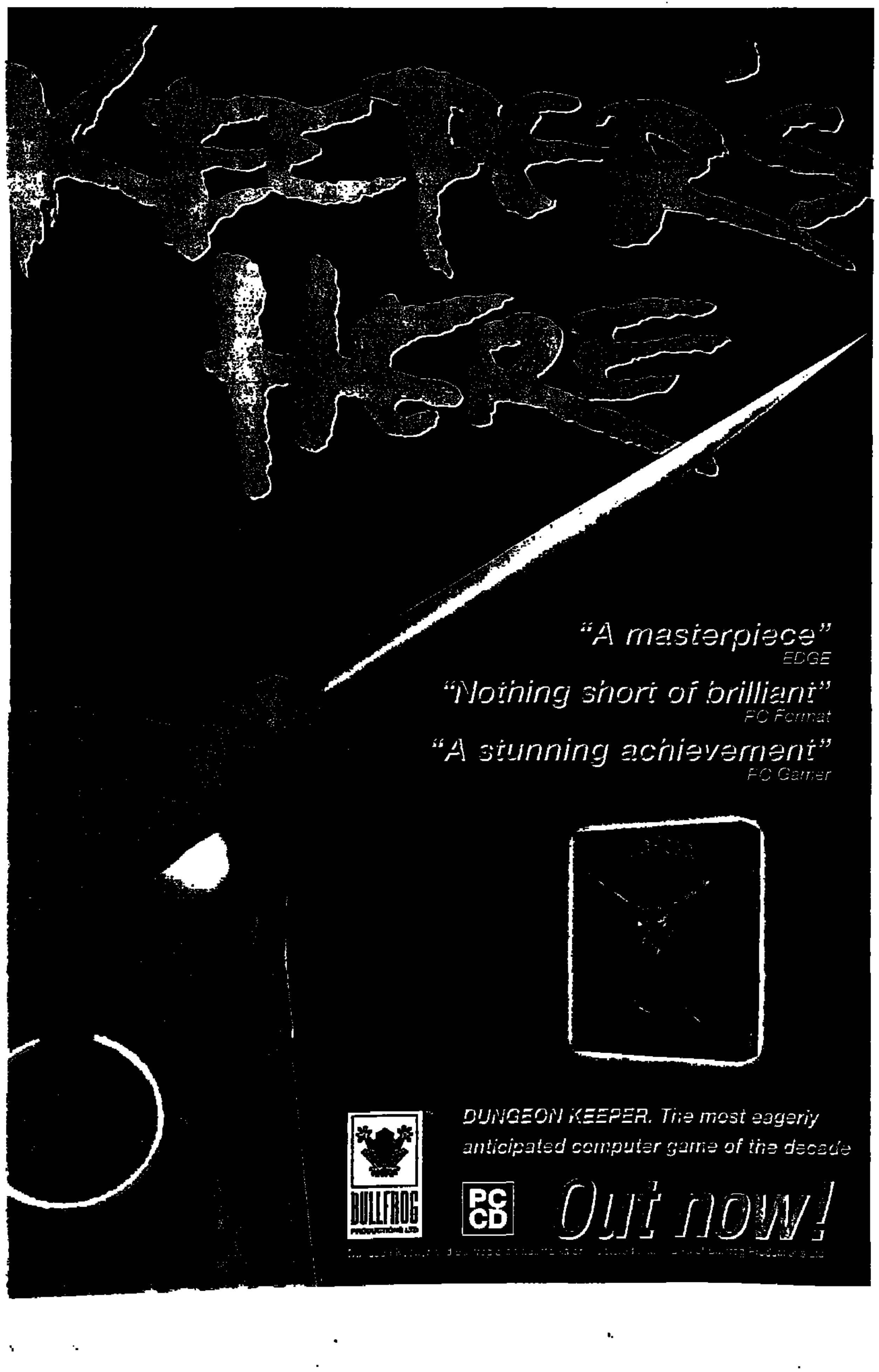
DAVID BYAS, the Yorkshire captain, was not making any apologies yesterday after a pitch tailored to his specifications had left Scarborough, his own club, without any cricket on what should have been one of the big days of their famous festival (Pat Gibson writes).

Durham had been beaten by lunchtime on what their captain, David Boon, called the most extraordinary pitch he had seen in 20 years in the game. It was thickly grassed in the middle but bare at the ends, and Boon said: "It is to the benefit of nobody in the long term. It gives the bowlers a false sense of their worth and undermines the batsmen's confidence."

Byas countered: "I am not saying that this is the way forward for English cricket, but it is the way for us to play county cricket here. All the years I have been playing for Yorkshire, people have been telling me that we would never get results at Scarborough, but we have proved otherwise in the past two seasons."

Yorkshire were hoist by their own petard the first time that they tried the two-tone pitch last year, Caddick bowling Somerset to victory. Yorkshire demolished Nottinghamshire later in the summer, though, and now that Durham have gone the same way, Sussex can expect a similar surface when they visit here next month.

Durham needed 159 to make Yorkshire bat again with only five wickets left. Betts, with 35, and Boiling, with 40, his highest championship score, put up a better fight than some of the batsmen and, in the end, occasional bowlers, McGrath and Lehmann, completed the job.



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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series

Glamorgan v Australians

CARDIFF (final day of three): Glamorgan drew with the Australians

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 369 for 4 dec (R T Ponting 126 not out, M A Taylor 71, G S Blewett 54, J L Langer 50 not out).

Second Innings
M J Slater lbw b Thomas ... 7
J L Langer b Parkin ... 10
M G Bevan c Metson b Thomas ... 1
B P Julian c and b Parkin ... 12
†D S Berry c Metson b Parkin ... 9
P R Reiffel b Thomas ... 56
M T G Elliott st Metson b Cosker ... 37
G S Blewett not out ... 50
R T Ponting not out ... 28
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 2) ... 7
Total (7 wkts dec) ... 217

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-18, 3-26, 4-37, 5-42, 6-122, 7-147.

BOWLING: Thomas 14-3-42-3; Parkin 15-3-38-3; Cosker 17-3-36-1; Butcher 10-1-36-0; Dale 9-1-43-0; Maynard 4-0-17-0.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 254 (S P James 91; P R Reiffel 5 for 81).

Second Innings
S P James c Julian b Bevan ... 79
H Morris c Berry b Kasprowicz ... 42
S D Thomas st Berry b Bevan ... 15
*M P Maynard not out ... 45
A Dale not out ... 20
Extras (lb 2, nb 8) ... 10
Total (3 wkts) ... 211

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-96, 2-139, 3-160.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 15-2-63-1; Reiffel 11-2-46-0; Julian 9-1-26-0; Bevan 16-1-74-2.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and T E Jesty.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

CHELTENHAM (third day of four) Gloucestershire (24pts) beat Derbyshire (4) by an innings and 35 runs

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 120 (K J Barnett 58; A M Smith 6 for 47).

Second Innings
A S Rollins c Lynch b Alleyne ... 44
M R May lbw b Smith ... 46
C J Adams c Russell b Alleyne ... 0
K J Barnett c Russell b Young ... 94
M J Vandrau c Lynch b Young ... 54
V P Clarke c Lewis b Young ... 0
†K M Krikken c Ball b Lewis ... 37
*P A J DeFreitas c Russell b Smith ... 45
A J Harris c Wright b Smith ... 2
K J Dean not out ... 2
D E Malcolm b Smith ... 0
Extras (lb 3, nb 2) ... 5
Total ... 329

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71, 2-73, 3-119, 4-240, 5-240, 6-251, 7-325, 8-325, 9-329.

BOWLING: Smith 21 4-5-59-4, Lewis 20-4-57-1; Alleyne 18-4-70-2; Young 12-4-25-3; Ball 29-5-80-0;Trainor 5-1-27-0; Hancock 1-0-8-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 484 (S Young 237, M W Alleyne 97, T H C Hancock 54; D E Malcolm 4 for 102).

Umpires: D R Shepherd and J F Steele.

Kent v Leicestershire

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Leicestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 345 runs to beat Kent

KENT: First Innings 498 for 9 dec (M A Ealham 139, S A Marsh 98 not out, P A Strang 82, T R Ward 51; J Ormond 5 for 107).

Second Innings
D P Fulton not out ... 19
E T Smith not out ... 5
Extras (w 2) ... 2
Total (no wkt dec) ... 26

BOWLING: Ormond 3-0-13-0; Wells 1-0-9-0; Smith 1-0-4-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
V J Wells c Strang b Thompson ... 15
D L Maddy c Marsh b Thompson ... 24
I J Sutcliffe b Fleming ... 0
*J J Whitaker c Fulton b Thompson ... 47
N C Johnson not out ... 72
B F Smith not out ... 0
Extras (nb 2) ... 2
Total (4 wkts dec, 42 overs) ... 160

†P A Nixon, A R K Pierson, D J Millns, A D Mullally and J Ormond did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-39, 3-39, 4-138.

BOWLING: McCague 8-2-26-0; Thompson 15-3-54-3; Fleming 6-1-22-1; Strang 3-1-16-0; Ealham 10-0-42-0.

Second Innings
V J Wells not out ... 7
D L Maddy not out ... 13
Total (no wkt) ... 20

BOWLING: McCague 2-1-1-0; Thompson 3-1-10-0; Fleming 2-1-4-0; Strang 2-1-5-0.

Bonus points: Kent 5 Leicestershire 3.

Umpires: K E Palmer and B J Meyer.

Lancashire v Sussex

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, need 104 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 561 for 8 dec (N H Fairbrother 132, J P Crawley 112, I D Austin 78 not out, M Watkinson 75).

SUSSEX: First Innings
N J Lenham lbw b Martin ... 5
R K Rao lbw b Martin ... 18
N R Taylor c Shadford b Yates ... 62
C W J Athey c Fairbrother b Austin ... 6
K Greenfield b Austin ... 0
K Newell c Yates b Austin ... 74
*†P Moores c Crawley b Watkinson ... 22
V C Drakes c Shadford b Watkinson ... 27
P W Jarvis lbw b Martin ... 11
M A Robinson c Shadford b Watkinson ... 27
R J Kirtley not out ... 7
Extras (b 9, lb 11, nb 8) ... 28
Total (93.5 overs) ... 307

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-41, 3-65, 4-65, 5-137, 6-194, 7-261, 8-265, 9-295.

BOWLING: Shadford 15-1-54-0; Martin 23-7-61-3; Austin 18-6-36-3; Watkinson 19.5-3-79-3; Yates 18-4-57-1.

Second Innings
N J Lenham c Hegg b Watkinson ... 14
R K Rao c Hegg b Gallian ... 24
N R Taylor b Yates ... 26
C W J Athey b Yates ... 53
K Greenfield not out ... 21
M A Robinson not out ... 4
Extras (lb 8) ... 8
Total (4 wkts) ... 150

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-38, 3-82, 4-145.

BOWLING: Shadford 6-1-17-0; Martin 4-1-7-0; Austin 10-4-14-0; Watkinson 19-5-51-1; Gallian 5-2-10-1; Yates 18-5-36-2; Atherton 1-0-7-0.

Bonus points: Lancashire 8 Sussex 5.

Umpires: D J Constant and R Julian.

Northamptonshire v Essex

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four). Northamptonshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs ahead of Essex

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 384 (D J Roberts 117; A P Grayson 4 for 53).

Second Innings
D J Roberts c Williams b Cowan ... 4
R J Warren lbw b Williams ... 32
*R J Bailey c Rollins b Irani ... 0
M B Loye retired hurt ... 43
K M Curran not out ... 40
D J G Sales not out ... 63
J N Snape c D R Law b Grayson ... 1
†D Ripley st Rollins b Grayson ... 5
J P Taylor b Cowan ... 0
Mohammad Akram c Grayson b Cowan ... 1
S A J Boswell b Williams ... 0
Extras (b 9, lb 4, w 2, nb 12) ... 27
Total (8 wkts) ... 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-28, 3-72, 4-135, 5-147, 6-154, 7-156, 8-182.

BOWLING: Cowan 18-8-54-3; Williams 18-3-52-2; Such 3-2-1-0; Irani 16-6-44-1; D R Law 12-1-31-0; Grayson 23-11-21-2.

ESSEX: First Innings 275 (N Hussain 77, P J Prichard 50; K M Curran 4 for 32).

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 8 Essex 6.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and P Willey.

Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 68 runs ahead of Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 344 (D L Hemp 70, D P Ostler 65; C M Tolley 4 for 92, P J Franks 4 for 84).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
P R Pollard c Ostler b Brown ... 29
R T Robinson lbw b Brown ... 10
*P Johnson lbw b Brown ... 8
N J Astle b Welch ... 11
G F Archer c Frost b Welch ... 3
U Afzaal c Frost b Donald ... 5
M P Dowman c Hemp b Welch ... 19
C M Tolley c Penney b Brown ... 0
†W M Noon b Bell ... 21
P J Franks lbw b Welch ... 7
A R Oram not out ... 0
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 6, nb 8) ... 20
Total (63.3 overs) ... 133

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-34, 3-53, 4-61, 5-69, 6-79, 7-79, 8-119, 9-133

BOWLING: Donald 19-4-52-1; Brown 23-13-37-4; Welch 12-4-26-4; Bell 8 3-3-12-1; Giles 1-1-0-0.

Second Innings
R T Robinson c Frost b Donald ... 4
M P Dowman lbw b Welch ... 96
*P Johnson retired hurt ... 16
N J Astle c Ostler b Welch ... 100
G F Archer lbw b Bell ... 6
U Afzaal not out ... 19
C M Tolley not out ... 20
Extras (b 5, lb 3, w 6, nb 4) ... 18
Total (4 wkts) ... 279

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-209, 3-228, 4-240.

BOWLING: Donald 16-5-59-1; Brown 15-3-68-0; Bell 16-2-38-1; Welch 16-3-70-2; Giles 16-3-40-0; Wagh 2-2-0-0.

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 4 Warwickshire 7.

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater.

Surrey v Hampshire

GUILDFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 53 runs ahead of Surrey

SURREY: First Innings 477 (A J Stewart 98, G P Thorpe 84, C C Lewis 78, A J Hollioake 75, M A Butcher 69).

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings
J S Laney lbw b B C Hollioake ... 41
M L Hayden b Bicknell ... 58
K D James c Brown b Bicknell ... 8
R A Smith c Salisbury b Lewis ... 25
M Keech hit wicket b Lewis ... 12
*J P Stephenson c Thorpe b Salisbury ... 18
†A N Aymes c B C Hollioake b Salisbury ... 45
S D Udal c Stewart b Bicknell ... 29
S J Renshaw c A J Hollioake b Bicknell ... 16
S M Milburn c Butcher b Salisbury ... 19
J N B Bovill not out ... 1
Extras (b 7, lb 6, w 6, nb 12) ... 31
Total (101.3 overs) ... 303

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-114, 3-125, 4-153, 5-158, 6-204, 7-251, 8-279, 9-293.

BOWLING: Bicknell 30-5-88-4; Lewis 15-5-31-2; Tudor 8-0-46-0; A J Hollioake 2-0-7-0; Salisbury 32.3-7-83-3; B C Hollioake 5-1-11-1; Ratcliffe 9-2-24-0

Second Innings
J S Laney b Bicknell ... 10
M L Hayden lbw b Bicknell ... 0
K D James lbw b Bicknell ... 0
R A Smith lbw b Lewis ... 1
M Keech lbw b Bicknell ... 7
*J P Stephenson c sub b Tudor ... 26
†A N Aymes not out ... 83
S D Udal c A J Hollioake b B C Hollioake ... 0
S J Renshaw lbw b A J Hollioake ... 56
S M Milburn not out ... 12
Extras (b 15, lb 6, w 2, nb 9) ... 32
Total (8 wkts) ... 227

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-13, 3-16, 4-22, 5-24, 6-70, 7-71, 8-194.

BOWLING: Bicknell 13-8-23-4; Lewis 14-2-66-1; B C Hollioake 5-2-14-1; Tudor 6-0-44-1; Salisbury 11-0-28-0; A J Hollioake 6-1-31-1.

Bonus points: Surrey 8 Hampshire 7.

Umpires: J W Holder and M J Kitchen.

Yorkshire v Durham

SCARBOROUGH (third day of four): Yorkshire (24pts) beat Durham (4) by an innings and 56 runs

DURHAM: First Innings 152 (J J B Lewis 50; D Gough 4 for 37).

Second Innings
J J B Lewis b Silverwood ... 4
M J Foster c Blakey b Gough ... 14
J E Morris c White b Gough ... 17
N J Speak c White b Hartley ... 13
*D C Boon c Blakey b Silverwood ... 9
†M P Speight c Blakey b Hartley ... 2
M M Betts b Silverwood ... 35
M A Roseberry c Byas b Gough ... 9
J Boiling c Blakey b McGrath ... 40
S J E Brown c Moxon b Lehmann ... 3
A Walker not out ... 12
Extras (b 2, lb 4) ... 6
Total ... 164

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-29, 3-44, 4-48, 5-61, 6-61, 7-78, 8-113, 9-147.

BOWLING: Gough 18-4-51-3; Silverwood 13-4-40-3; Hartley 16-4-34-2; Stemp 3-3-0-0; White 5-2-14-0; McGrath 3-0-19-1; Lehmann 8 1-0-0-1.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 372 (D S Lehmann 88, B Parker 74 not out, A McGrath 57)

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp.

Tour match

Worcestershire v Pakistan A

WORCESTER (final day of three). Worcestershire drew with Pakistan A

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 265 (G R Haynes 65, G A Hick 55: Ali Husain Rizvi 5 for 68).

Second Innings
V S Solanki lbw b Shoaib ... 38
W P C Weston retired hurt ... 20
*G A Hick c sub b Azhar ... 144
K R Spiring c Farhan b Azhar ... 13
G R Haynes c sub b Azhar ... 48
D A Leatherdale retired hurt ... 9
†I Dawood not out ... 10
M Rawnsley not out ... 13
Extras (b 10, lb 18, w 2, nb 13) ... 43
Total (4 wkts) ... 338

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-114, 3-285, 4-292.

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 29 5-11-125-1, Abdul Razzak 20-4-81-0; Azhar Mahmood 24-6-54-3; Mujahid Jamshed 0.1-0-1-0; Ali Husain Rizvi 13-4-39-0.

PAKISTAN A: First Innings 489 for 9 dec (Salim Elahi 229, Mohammad Wasim 64, Farhan Adil 50).

Umpires: J D Bond and N A Mallender.

Asia Cup

Sri Lanka v India

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka won toss). Sri Lanka beat India by six wickets

INDIA
*S R Tendulkar b Vaas ... 21
S C Ganguly c Dharmasena b S C de Silva ... 11
†S S Karim c S K L de Silva b Dharmasena ... 12
R S Dravid b Jayasuriya ... 69
M Azharuddin not out ... 81
R R Singh c P A de Silva b Vaas ... 10
A D Jadeja st S K L de Silva b Jayasuriya ... 3
A Kumble not out ... 16
Extras (w 3, nb 1) ... 4
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs) ... 227

N David, A P Kuruvilla and B K V Prasad did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-35, 3-51, 4-168, 5-189, 6-201.

BOWLING: Vaas 8-1-35-2; S C de Silva 7-0-30-1; Muralitharan 10-1-30-0; Dharmasena 10-1-52-1; Jayasuriya 10-0-52-2; Kalpage 5-0-28-0.

SRI LANKA
S T Jayasuriya c Dravid b Prasad ... 0
M S Atapattu lbw b Singh ... 31
P A de Silva c Karim b Prasad ... 6
*A Ranatunga not out ... 131
R S Mahanama c Karim b Singh ... 5
†S K L de Silva not out ... 37
Extras (lb 6, w 12, nb 3) ... 21
Total (4 wkts, 44.4 overs) ... 231

R S Kalpage, H D P K Dharmasena, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan and S C de Silva did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-9, 3-117, 4-125

BOWLING: Prasad 8-0-44-2; Kuruvilla 7-0-35-0; Kumble 10-0-38-0; David 8-0-36-0; Ganguly 3-0-19-0; Singh 4-0-29-2; Jadeja 4-0-18-0; Tendulkar 0.4-0-6-0.

Man of the match: A Ranatunga.

Umpires: Salim Badar (Pakistan) and Nazar Junior (Pakistan)

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Milton Keynes: Northamptonshire 316 and 12-0; Nottinghamshire 229-7. Final day of three: South Shields: Durham 162 and 339; Leicestershire 215 and 287-6 (D Stevens 125) Leicestershire win by four wickets. Chelmsford: Essex 360-9 dec and 0-0; Lancashire 213-6 dec. Match drawn. Southampton: Yorkshire 444-7 dec and 160; Hampshire 387-7 dec and 187 (P R Whitaker 78). Yorkshire win by 30 runs. Southgate CC: Gloucestershire 261; Middlesex 399-7 dec. Match drawn. Hove: Sussex 413-5 dec and 235-4 dec; Glamorgan 318-8 dec and 154 (A D Edwards 4-53). Sussex win by 176 runs. Halesowen: Worcestershire 297 and 105; Derbyshire 250-5 dec and 153-3. Derbyshire win by seven wickets. Final day of four: Taunton: Warwickshire 296 and 491-6 dec; Somerset 176 and 605 (M E Trescothick 322, M Burns 68). Warwickshire win by six runs. The Oval: Surrey 447 and 187-8 dec; Kent 277 and 254-3 (W J House 92 not out). Match drawn

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CRICKET

Glamorgan unable to home in on target

By Ivo Tennant

CARDIFF (final day of three): Glamorgan drew with the Australians

THE Australians left Glamorgan too onerous a task yesterday. Mindful, perhaps, that their one defeat by a county in a first-class match came when they set Derbyshire a fair target in the early stages of this tour, they did not declare until lunch. The championship leaders needed 333 off a minimum of 59 overs and settled for a draw with 122 runs still required and eight overs remaining.

Steve James, who made an excellent 79 to go with his 91 in the first innings, became the first batsman in the country to reach 1,000 runs this summer, and in so doing enhanced his chances of playing for England one day. He does not need to concern himself with whether or not he is a part of a fashionable county: when he marries his fiancée in September, Michael Atherton will be among the ushers.

At tea, Glamorgan needed a further 224 off a minimum of 30 overs, which was an awful lot. Morris and James had begun with 96 off 26 overs — a sound enough start — but Maynard chose not to come in at first wicket down, preferring to send in the left-handed Thomas to have a slog. When he was neatly stumped by Berry off a leg-side full toss from Bevan, the asking rate was still seven an over.

Morris had struck seven fours in his 42, a rather more productive innings than he had managed on Thursday. As for James, he batted still more freely. When he had made 15, he became the first batsman to 1,000 runs, which was achieved about three weeks later than is customarily the case. Conceivably it has never occurred so far into a season.

James has had 15 first-class innings. He leaves in his wake two Australians, Matthew Hayden, of Hampshire, and Darren Lehmann, of Yorkshire, so that is something, too. James made, in all, 79 off 116 balls with 11 fours before he pulled a short ball from Bevan, a long hop even, to mid-wicket. It was remarkably similar to his dismissal in his first innings.

Maynard did come in when Thomas was out. He drove Kasprowicz for six over long-on, a terrific shot achieved with minimal backlift that owed everything to timing and strength of forearms. There were also one or two drives that were reminiscent of his strokeplay when the Australians last came to Glamorgan four years ago. His century then led to a brief recall to Test cricket.

Alas for him, he could not manage any more pyrotechnics now. Also, Dale took 19 balls to get off the mark and was unable to force the ball away after that. When the last hour's play began, 156 were required off the statutory 15 overs and that was too much even for Maynard.

The declaration could, and probably should, have been more imaginative. The Australians, though, were already focused on more important matters at Headingley next week. Last night they returned to London to play Middlesex, their final match before the fourth Test.

They had delayed declaring until Blewett, as well as Reiffel, had made a half-century. The pitch was not giving Bevan's chinamen, nor, for that matter, anybody of quicker pace, any assistance and Warne was not playing. What he was doing, in fact, was signing autographs for a good half an hour for no end of small children. It won him considerable appreciation from another excellent crowd.

HUW JOHN

James on-drives elegantly to the boundary and becomes the first batsman to score 1,000 runs this season

Astle continues to give good value

By Michael Henderson

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 68 runs ahead of Warwickshire

NATHAN ASTLE walked to the crease yesterday three overs after lunch, when Paul Johnson retired hurt with a bruised finger. Nottinghamshire were 39 for one in their second innings, and effectively three wickets down as the other Paul, Pollard, had broken the middle finger of his left hand on Thursday, and is expected to miss the rest of the season.

Astle cared not a jot that his team had just been bowled out for 133, and needed to find another 172 runs to make Warwickshire bat for a second time. By tea, Astle, recruited as recently as June 4, had reached a truly excellent hundred and, though he perished in the first over afterwards, he had given everybody a vigorous account of himself.

The New Zealander has certainly given good value in his first month at Trent Bridge. He made 99 against the Australians and his half-century, and tight bowling, enabled Nottinghamshire to beat Surrey at the Oval in a low-scoring NatWest Trophy tie.

His innings yesterday was only the second century by a Nottinghamshire batsman in the championship this season. Matthew Dowman, who made the first, came within a boundary hit of another before he was leg-before to Graeme Welch.

English teams are already familiar with Astle. In the opening game of the World Cup last year, he made a bracing hundred, and he obstructed them in "Morrison's match", at Auckland in January, when his undefeated century helped the Duck King to save the day.

He is not afraid to challenge the bowlers' authority. Yesterday, with the boundary on the Bridgeford Road side of the ground no more than 60 yards square of the wicket, and with the field set for wicket-taking rather than containment, he cut loose from the start, going to his fifty in 42 balls before he reached his century in 112.

Had Penney clung on to a sharp chance at third slip, Astle would have made 96 runs fewer. Donald, the bowler, was at his hostile best in that spell, and a fine sight he made. Funnily enough, however, it was Michael Bell, the left-armer playing his first championship match for two years, who sent Pollard and Johnson for repairs.

Astle added 170 in 38 overs with Dowman before he was beautifully caught at second slip by Osler. Dowman, who had played pretty well going in first, was leg-before as he tried to work Welch through mid-wicket.

That was Welch's second wicket of the innings, and his fourth of the day. Like Brown, the other emerging all-rounder, Welch is growing nicely into a team that is acquiring a fresh identity.

Sales and Curran take fight to Essex

By Barney Spender

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs ahead of Essex

THIS season Northamptonshire have struggled to fulfil the expectations of their supporters but, if they go on to record their second championship win today, they can take a well-earned bow. They have battled hard and shown that they can fight as tenaciously as anyone.

Although David Sales took centre stage yesterday, there were impressive supporting roles from Kevin Curran and Malachy Loye, who shared a partnership of 48 that ended with both of them in the medical ward.

Loye played beautifully to reach 43. But when he turned quickly for a second run, he hit the deck, clutching his side as if shot by a sniper. He may be wheeled into action this morning but, if the early prognosis of torn ligaments of the lower back proves correct, it may spell the end of his season.

Shortly afterwards, Curran, on 28, was also back in the pavilion after being struck a painful blow on his right hand by Danny Law. After a swift changing-room operation to drain the blood from the thumb, he returned to the crease but by then Paul Grayson and Ashley Cowan had reduced Northamptonshire to 182 for eight. However, Curran showed great pluck in staying with Sales to the close and won a mini-battle when Law returned. Predictably, the first ball was a bouncer and Curran pulled it savagely to the boundary.

Sales, who has found runs hard to come by this summer, was also in the mood. He smashed one straight drive back past Law and then hooked Cowan out of the ground. He reached his 50 off 111 balls and by the close had moved to 63, his highest of the season. If Northamptonshire do clinch it, their captain, Rob Bailey, will recall the match with mixed feelings. He completed his first pair for the county yesterday to set alongside the one he collected in the second of his four Tests, in Trinidad in 1991.

Hick makes the most of acquiescent opposition

By John Thicknesse

WORCESTER (final day of three): Worcestershire drew with Pakistan A

WORCESTERSHIRE saved their game against Pakistan A without coming under pressure at New Road and, on a blameless pitch, it was no surprise that Graeme Hick scored 144, his 93rd first-class hundred, one behind C. B. Fry. The innings contained some memorable strokes, none more remarkable than a six into the road in which the follow-through hardly reached waist height, so sweetly did he time it.

All the same, it must have been among the luckiest hundreds of Hick's career: at 94, he was dropped just inside the extra-cover boundary by a fielder who did not have to move. Eighty minutes later, when he holed out at long leg, there were five sixes and 20 fours to Hick's credit off 153 balls, his runs coming out of 232.

Commanding as he was, though, his runs were made against all-too-acquiescent opposition. Omens were favourable when Solanki, over-confident, threw away his wicket after half an hour and, 20 minutes later, when Weston retired hurt after being hit on the foot by Shoaib Akhtar, Worcestershire needed another 155 to save an innings defeat. However, the Pakistanis drooped when Hick edged Razzak just wide of second slip, who then dropped Spiring two-handed off the same bowler.

Akhtar deserved Spiring's wicket off a thick edge square of gully. But it spoke volumes for the touring team's state of mind that when Akhtar stopped a Hick drive with his foot, it took eight minutes before the game restarted, three of them elapsing while Akhtar hobbled off the field.

Returning to be hit by Hick for 16 in the first over after lunch, Akhtar later sent Leatherdale to hospital for stitches to his mouth, through ducking into a short ball that skidded through chest-high. Like Weston, though, who was padded up to hat had another wicket fallen, Leatherdale is expected to be fit for the Axa Life League game against Glamorgan tomorrow.

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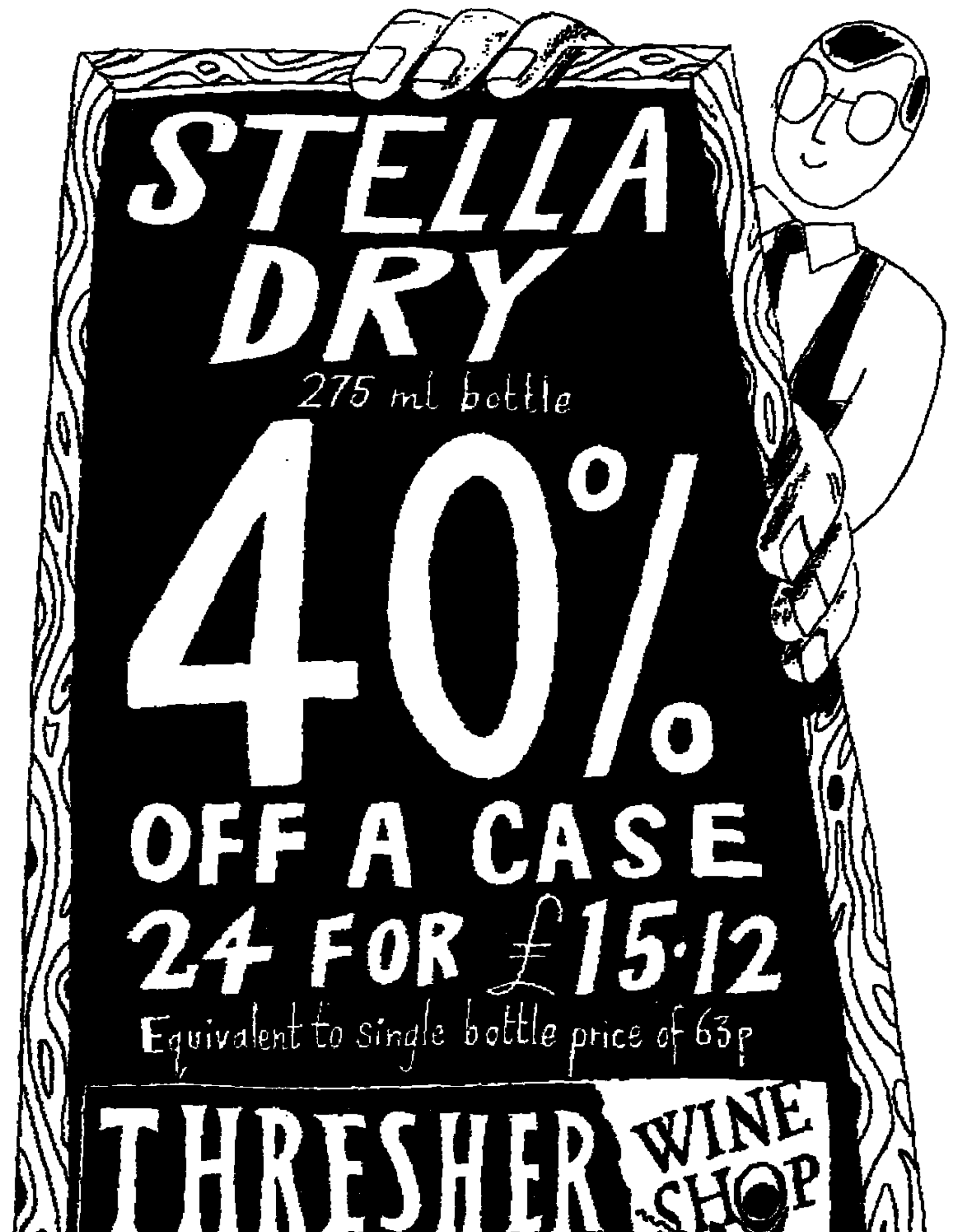

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Caddie stands firm behind master golfer after error at 10th hole costs four strokes

Woods meets his match in the vagaries of Troon

ROB HUGHES

At Royal Troon

HOW splendidly, and sometimes capriciously, does the game of golf mimic the patterns of life. Tiger Woods crossed the Atlantic last week justifiably labelled the finest young golfer in the world: indeed, he may prove to be the best yet born. Yet Royal Troon has the measure of him.

In the fierce winds of Thursday, he was trapped at the 11th, where he took seven shots. In the calm, clear, sunlit morning yesterday, this immaculate golfer took eight shots, four over par, to sink his ball at the 10th hole . . . and he made the cut for the remaining two rounds only through a birdie at the 18th, a final achievement that showed his character, calculation and inspiration.

It is reassuring, in a way, to see a phenomenon disarmed by a course on the Scottish coastline that has been teasing and testing men and women through the century. This is the art, the allure of golf: the course confounds man, examines his ability and his temperament to the limits, humbles him just when he has 50 million reasons — dollars in the bank — to presume the mantle of greatness.

I wish Woods no ill will. At 21, he meets triumph and disaster, at least in the public glare after his rounds, articulately, with equanimity, and a measure of modesty. However, it was astonishing, at the 10th yesterday, the way that a cathedral quiet was cast around the hole as, caught in Troon's long rough, he was reduced to an ordinary being.

It was not Woods alone. In Augusta, a couple of months ago, where he had so majestically strode away from the field, it was a tale of the Tiger and the Walrus. At his side, nursing him, reading the greens to perfection for him, relaxing him, was Mike "Fluff" Cowan, the experienced caddy with the drooping white moustache. At his side in the travails of Troon is again Cowan, though in this the master golfer and the bag carrier are like novices. Cowan confirmed after the round yesterday that he and his man had never been to Troon before this week.

More than that; Cowan would not disassociate himself from Woods's moment of vulnerability. "It started with a very bad shot, but we both chose the club, an eight-iron, and we both liked it," he said. The instant that Woods hit the ball, however, he exclaimed: "Oh no! Good God!" That club, used for the second shot at the 438-yard hole, projected the ball beyond the green and deep into long rye grass, backing on to gorse bushes. "At the back of the green, I was in some pretty thick stuff, with a gorse bush right behind me," Woods said. "I tried to play a shot to the front of the green with a sand-wedge. I whiffed it, my club went right underneath the ball."

The ball moved three inches. He hacked at it again, moved it perhaps six yards, and then, borne out of pique from a talented player so unaccustomed to this Scottish rough, he used the wedge a third time, propelled the ball hastily and violently, up and over the green to the other side. From there, he chipped shallowly towards the green and then two-putted.

Making matters worse, the scoreboard overlooking that hole kept relating to Woods and Cowan that Darren Clarke was burning up the course, using the same becalmed morning conditions to hit birdie after birdie, six of them on the outward nine.

The surface of Troon, combed by gentler winds yesterday, is as like the smooth and wide fairways of manicured Augusta as French red clay is like Wimbledon grass. Maybe that was why Cowan seemed to become distant from his employer on the greens yesterday, a separation that was not helped by a round of golf that produced barely a semblance of joy.

Woods struggled from the 1st, where, with his short iron, he fluffed the approach to the green. He was then to miss vital putts, from two feet on the 3rd green and from even closer on the 8th, where he completely misread the lie.

In elements friendly to the golfer, the galleries, rather than the expectant hordes who whoop wherever Woods strides in the United States, were bystanders of curiosity: waiting for the magic, willing to judge the man not on his reputation but on what he did before them.

Again, the caddy protected his player. "It is your expectations, not ours," Cowan said. "I learnt a long time ago that you don't play this game with expectations, you go play." Then, cancelling his own planned recreational round in the afternoon, Cowan said: "Tiger hit more fairways and more greens today than he did yesterday, but it's a game of putts and, in my opinion, the score [74] reflects only that the putts didn't go in."

For a day, then, the mood of the Tiger drooped like the moustache of the Walrus. He lives to play another round today, and I do hope that the small boy, clad from cap to trainers in Tiger Woods Nike apparel, can be brought back to witness a recharged icon.

MARC ASPLAND

The day's work over, Woods is left to ponder on his battle with Troon that will continue this morning

EARLY OPEN SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

133: D Clarke 67, 66
135: J Leonard (US) 69, 66
136: J Parnevik (Swe) 70, 66
137: F Couples (US) 69, 68
139: J Furyk (US) 67, 72; T Kite (US) 72, 67
140: A Cabrera (Arg) 70, 70
141: J Haas (US) 71, 70; T Watson (US) 71, 70; M Calcavecchia (US) 74, 67
142: C Strange (US) 71, 71; D Duval (US) 73, 69; P Lonard (Aus) 72, 70; G Norman (Aus) 69, 73; E Romero (Arg) 74, 68
143: J Lomas 72, 71, M James 76, 67; P O'Malley (Aus) 73, 70; T Purtzer (US) 72, 71; L Westwood 73, 70; S Maruyama (Japan) 74, 69; S Ames (Trin) 74, 69; J M Olazábal (Sp) 75, 68
144: E Els (SA) 75, 69; N Faldo 71, 73; P Mitchell 75, 69; P Harrington 75, 69; B Faxon (US) 77, 67; P Mickelson (US) 76, 68; S Appleby (Aus) 72, 72; * B Howard 70, 74; J Kelly (US) 76, 68; R Goosen (SA) 75, 69; R Russell 72, 72; I Woosnam 71, 73; R Allenby (Aus) 76, 68
145: Michael Bradley (US) 72, 73; T Tolles (US) 77, 68; J Payne 74, 71; J Maggert (US) 76, 69; S Stricker (US) 72, 73; M McNulty (Zim) 78, 67; C Montgomerie 76, 69; W Riley (Aus) 74, 71
146: F Nobilo (NZ) 74, 72; T Lehman (US) 74, 72; V Singh (Fiji) 77, 69; T Woods (US) 72, 74; B Langer (Ger) 72, 74; R Davis (Aus) 73, 73; P Teravainen (US) 74, 72; R Boxall 75, 71; M O'Meara (US) 73, 73; P Senior (Aus) 76, 70
147: D A Russell 75, 72; S Jones (US) 76, 71; C Pavin (US) 78, 69; G Turner (NZ) 76, 71; J Spence 78, 69; P McGinley 76, 71; P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 75; J Nicklaus (US) 73, 74; P Stewart (US) 73, 74.
148: G Orr 76, 72; M Wiebe (US) 73, 75; M Long (NZ) 78, 70; S Elkington (Aus) 76, 72; P Hedblom (Swe) 76, 72; G Brand Jr 76, 72; C Mason 78, 70; P Fulke (Swe) 73, 75; D Howell 75, 73; W Westner (SA) 75, 73; A Coltart 76, 72; D Robertson 76, 72
149: L Janzen (US) 78, 71; C Stadler (US) 78, 71; G Player (SA) 78, 71; C Parry (Aus) 79, 70; R Damron (US) 76, 73; P Baker 79, 70; B Watts (US) 75, 74; * C Watson 73, 76; T Bjorn (Den) 76, 73; P Broadhurst 75, 74; L Roberts (US) 76, 73
150: C Rocca (It) 75, 75; N Price (Zim) 78, 72; M Brooks (US) 80, 70; G Day (US) 78, 72; S Dunlap (US) 77, 73; S McCarron (US) 73, 77
151: I Garrido (Sp) 79, 72; M A Martín (Sp) 79, 72; J Steenkamer (Holl) 78, 73; P Blackmar (US) 76, 75; J Cook (US) 76, 75
152: W Bladon 78, 74; M A Jiménez (Sp) 82, 70; Kim Jong-duck (S Kor) 77, 75; L Batchelor 77, 75; C Clark 79, 73; S Torrance 78, 74
153: A Crerar 76, 77; * D Olsson (Swe) 80, 73; Mike Bradley 77, 76; G Dodd (Aus) 78, 75; * S Webster 75, 78; A Lyle 78, 75; J van de Velde (Fr) 77, 76
154: P Haugsrud (Nor) 79, 75; M Miller 82, 72
155: D Hart (US) 78, 77; R Green (Aus) 80, 75; K Eriksson (Swe) 85, 70
156: G Murphy 84, 72; P Stankowski (US) 80, 76; S Mori (Japan) 80, 76
157: P Azinger (US) 79, 78
158: D Frost (SA) 81, 77; M Mamat (Sing) 83, 75
159: * S Young 79, 80; R Jacquelin (Fr) 81, 78
161: A Cejka (Ger) 81, 80
163: N Sato (Japan) 85, 78
164: D Edlund (Swe) 87, 77; * J Miller 80, 84
Withdrawn: J Ozaki (Japan), Y Kaneko (Japan), C Perry (US)

** denotes amateur*

Sultan of swing looks in dire straits

Mel Webb applauds as the coaching manual is brutally ripped to shreds

There is something faintly irritating about the turgid sameness that permeates the modern world of sport. Tennis, for example, has its two-fisted backhands, cricket its uniformly boring medium-pace howlers: see one, and you have seen them all. In golf, too, technique is everything, so it is perversely pleasant to encounter a player whose method is totally, relentlessly and wonderfully daft.

The misfit in question is Jim Furyk, a 27-year-old American who might have been born to fit Walter Hagen's maxim that "It's not how, it's how many." If golf scores were based on style, Furyk would have a job to break 100.

The modest Pennsylvanian, who has played a leading part in the first two rounds of the Open Championship, has a swing that is all his own, which is just as well since nobody else would want it even if he were giving it away. A golf swing should have as few moving parts as possible: Furyk's has so many that it is a small wonder that bits do not fly off him when he hits the ball.

His swing is a wondrous, loopy swipe that makes him look like a mad axeman threshing wheat. At the top of the backswing there is something that almost defies description: it is a twirl, a flourish, a twiddle, a whatsit that says more clearly than a thousand words: "Whoops, there's something going wrong up there, let's adjust before we fall over."

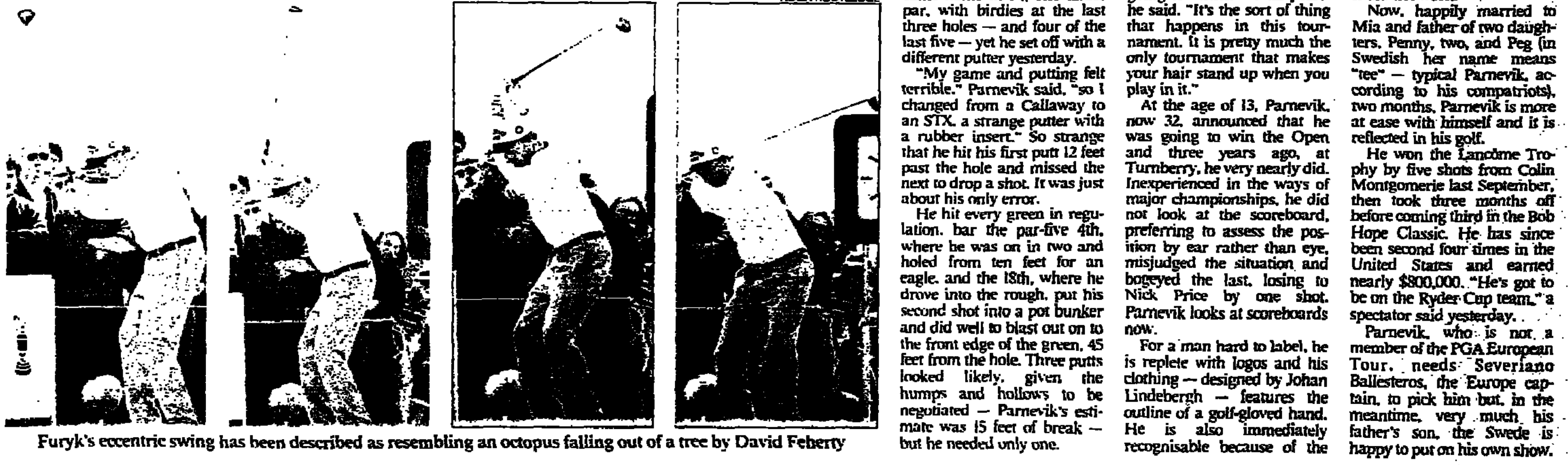
The Furyk flail has been described in many ways, the most memorable of which was undoubtedly coined by David Feherty, erstwhile Europe Ryder Cup player and now a television commentator in the United States, who said that the swing looked like an octopus falling out of a tree. Somebody else said Furyk resembled a man trying to kill a snake in a telephone box. It is Basil Fawlty, Monty Python and Max Wall all wrapped up in one gloriously eccentric package that comes directly from the Ministry of Silly Golf Swings.

People with swings like this usually come by them naturally: nobody taught Eamonn Darcy or Russell Claydon, the two leading European purveyors of side-splittingly comical swings, how to do it. No sane person could. Yet Furyk claims that he was actually taught to hit the ball like that by his father, who, as the man who as the man responsible for causing innocent spectators to suffer hernias from laughing as they watch his son hit a golf ball, has a lot to answer for.

The strangest thing of all is that it works beautifully. Furyk goes into the third round today in a good position on three under par. He might look funny, but his ball-striking ability is no laughing matter.

He is seventh on the order of merit and sixth in the Ryder Cup list: spectators at Valderrama in September are in for a treat. As long, that is, as they remember to pack a truss. It's not how, remember, it's how many.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Furyk's eccentric swing has been described as resembling an octopus falling out of a tree by David Feherty

Jester Parnevik is happy to stand out from crowd

By Patricia Davies

JESPER PARNEVIK, known for his brim, his vim and his aversion to leaderboards, played well-nigh immaculate golf in the shimmering sunshine at Royal Troon yesterday to return a second-round score of 66, five under par, for a total of 136, six under.

The skinny, cerebral Swede — he purges his system every month or so with a diet of volcanic sand and prefers reading Oriental philosophy to the latest potboiler — is very much out of the ordinary, off and on the course. He was the only man to break par on the inward nine in the brutal wind on Thursday, despite a double-bogey six at the 11th. He came home in 34, one under par, with birdies at the last three holes — and four of the last five — yet he set off with a different putter yesterday.

"My game and putting felt terrible," Parnevik said, "so I changed from a Callaway to an STX, a strange putter with a rubber insert." So strange that he hit his first putt 12 feet past the hole and missed the next to drop a shot. It was just about his only error.

He hit every green in regulation, bar the par-five 4th, where he was on in two and holed from ten feet for an eagle, and the 18th, where he drove into the rough, put his second shot into a pot bunker and did well to blast out on to the front edge of the green, 45 feet from the hole. Three putts looked likely, given the humps and hollows to be negotiated — Parnevik's estimate was 15 feet of break — but he needed only one.

Parnevik: eagle at 4th

"Things like that you're going to remember all year," he said. "It's the sort of thing that happens in this tournament. It is pretty much the only tournament that makes your hair stand up when you play in it."

At the age of 13, Parnevik, now 32, announced that he was going to win the Open and three years ago, at Turnberry, he very nearly did. Inexperienced in the ways of major championships, he did not look at the scoreboard, preferring to assess the position by ear rather than eye, misjudged the situation and bogeyed the last, losing to Nick Price by one shot. Parnevik looks at scoreboards now.

For a man hard to label, he is replete with logos and his clothing — designed by Johan Lindebergh — features the outline of a golf-gloved hand. He is also immediately recognisable because of the upturned peak of his cap, a fad that started because he wanted to tan his pale forehead and has developed from minor idiosyncrasy to big business. SAP America is writ large on it and is not a reference to the wearer's dafter tendencies, but the name of a German computer software company.

This search for an identity of his own owes much to being the son of Bo Parnevik, a comedian who is a celebrity in Sweden and a golf nut, who hit floating balls into the lake behind their home with his son. In his early days, Parnevik Jnr, who described the game as "mind-boggling, maddening and frustrating", would always opt for the spectacular shot and go nuts if it did not work.

Now, happily married to Mia and father of two daughters, Penny, two, and Peg (in Swedish her name means "tee" — typical Parnevik, according to his compatriots), two months, Parnevik is more at ease with himself and it is reflected in his golf.

He won the Lancôme Trophy by five shots from Colin Montgomerie last September, then took three months off before coming third in the Bob Hope Classic. He has since been second four times in the United States and earned nearly $800,000. "He's got to be on the Ryder Cup team," a spectator said yesterday.

Parnevik, who is not a member of the PGA European Tour, needs Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, to pick him but, in the meantime, very much his father's son, the Swede is happy to put on his own show.

Three join fallen champion

By Our Sports Staff

NAOMICHI OZAKI and Yoshinori Kaneko, both of Japan, and Chris Perry, of the United States, withdrew from the second round because of injuries. Ozaki has a wrist injury and Kaneko a back problem: Perry is suffering from a thigh injury.

They joined Ian Baker-Finch, of Australia, a winner of the Open at Royal Birkdale in 1991, who withdrew after a 21-over-par 92 in the opening round.

Dennis Edlund and Daniel Olsson, both of Sweden, made holes in one yesterday, Edlund at the 8th, the 126-yard Postage Stamp — the shortest hole on the Open rota of courses — with a nine-iron.

Gene Sarazen, of the United States, a winner of the Open at Troon, was 70 when he made a hole in one at the Postage Stamp in 1982.

Edlund's shot did not help him beat the halfway cut. Olsson, an amateur, made a hole in one at the 210-yard 5th with a five-iron. On Thursday, another Swede, Pierre Fulke, holed in one at the 179-yard 14th, a week after he made a hole in one in the opening round of the Loch Lomond World Invitational.

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Timeless appeal of life by the Postage Stamp

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

However much information you've got, it's never quite enough. Out on the 8th hole at Royal Troon, you can sit and watch the whole event pass by and have no sense whatever of the day's unfolding overall shape. It's like living in the continuous present tense and, as such, is very relaxing. Famous folk in nice trousers arrive in threes, they play the hole, they pass on. And after that, unless they join the top few players whose scores adorn the big yellow boards ("Jesper Parnevik, crazy name, crazy guy!"), they might as well vanish from the face of the earth.

Yesterday, at the par-three 8th — the famous Postage Stamp — we counted them all in, and then we did that other thing. Most notably, however, at about half past nine, we saw a hole in one from Dennis Edlund, of Sweden — a man who was playing at a lamentable 18 over par at the time. "But he'll be only 16 over now!" we pointed out. "That should give him hope!" As it happens, Edlund finished 22 over par, but the point is, *we didn't know that*. He was in good shape when he left *us*. Likewise, when Tiger Woods was multiple-bogeying the 10th, we were completely unaware of it. He'd been and gone, ages ago.

The great appeal of the 8th is its famous compactness, which means it's not really like watching golf, it's like cheating. From the grandstand, you can watch the tee-shot, then pretend to watch the ball soaring overhead (people who claim to see it are lying) and then admire the various bunker-shots and birdies, all without moving from your seat. Everything that hits the green is warmly applauded — and yesterday most balls obligingly hit the green, rather than the pesky bunkers. The only obvious under-hit was from Gary Player. "He's short!" I exclaimed, which I realised at once was a bit tactless.

I suppose on an ideal day it would have been windy, raining and difficult, with players beating plumes of wet, heavy sand out of the bunkers and snapping clubs over knee in frustration. As it was, however, dreamily clement conditions prevailed, grass thrown into the wind drifted no distance and the bunkers gave only one man visible heartache. Frank ("Stubble") Nobilo, having rescued his ball, made a pettish swipe at some innocent sand and a general intake of breath was heard from the crowd. Quite uncalled for, we thought. We'd always liked Nobilo up 'till then.

Spectators gathered around the 8th green await the next party to pass by

> 'The minute the favoured player leaves, the grandstand empties'

Is there such a consensus in golf crowds? Well, there certainly seems to be. Nobody much likes Corey Pavin, for example. People cheer Colin Montgomerie when he's doing well, but I'm sure he knows that the moment he throws a tantrum, his followers could disown him. Meanwhile, the Open crowd openly adores Costantino Rocca (cuddly Italian who created John Daly tie-break in 1995 with legendary chip); they like Ernie Els, because he's unassuming and cute (albeit in a huge kind of way); they also love Parnevik (comical Swede pipped by Nick Price in 1994). Never before has a Jesper been taken to the national bosom, incidentally. Not even as a kind of biscuit.

The way you judge consensus adoration is simple, of course. The minute the favoured player leaves the green, the grandstand empties, with a loud clattering noise of golf-shoe on metal step. "He's gone, that's it," the crowd breathes in unison and makes with the clatter. From the perspective of Game 16 yesterday (the inoffensive trio of Miguel Angel Jiménez, David Duval and Greg Turner), the Open was marked principally by big crowds scarpering to avoid them. They were following Faldo, you see. "Here we come!" they would announce, spotting multitudes ahead. But "Let's get out of here," the Faldo fans said, without a thought for the feelings of the chaps left behind.

Faldo got the biggest mass walkout of the morning. Somehow, this oddly charmless man retains the goodwill of the golfing public; it's just one of those mysteries. On Wednesday, I have to admit my first sight of real-live Faldo was like the first sight of real-live Harrison Ford, but I can't explain it. The way he expresses extreme emotion by grimacing and gingerly holding the ball up to the crowd — perhaps that just touches a chord with the sort of repressed people who play golf a lot.

And this lot do play golf, you can tell. This crowd is full of ordinary people tramping confidently in their old spiked shoes and never asking "Does a plus sign mean he's winning?" Pundits have worried about the Tiger Woods charisma drawing non-golfers along, but there's little evidence of it. This is the perfect audience for a sporting event: they just love to see the sport played well.

Out there on the 8th, we saw magnificent, inch-perfect tee-shots landing vertically on the tiny green — landing and bouncing a little, but very rarely rolling. It was fabulous. Later on, curiously enough, Colinmania took a grip, despite my predictions to the contrary. At this rate, a great weekend will be enjoyed by golf bores everywhere.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington manage to limit the damage

Penrith Panthers 48
Warrington Wolves 12

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON were comprehensively outplayed by Penrith yesterday for a second time in a month, but three well-taken tries will go a long way towards securing them a place in the knockout stages of the world club championship, in October.

Points difference will probably determine one or more of the three automatic qualifiers from Europe pool A, so the damage limitation to keep Penrith to under the half-century was a triumph of sorts. The worry was that the Wolves were under pressure for all but a few minutes in another lopsided contest.

As ingeniously as Warrington occasionally played to manoeuvre their way into scoring positions, their defence conceded eight tries, three of them to Matt Adamson, an unstoppable forward on the charge. "It's attitude more than anything," Darryl Van de Velde, the Warrington coach, said. "Players have got the ability to tackle, but some blokes just go in half-hearted."

It will require a more resolute rearguard to restrict Cronulla in Warrington's next match. Penrith, as dangerous as they looked at times, fumbled more ball than is customary for a leading Australian side. Despite their laxity, their scoring was divided equally between the halves. Girdler scored 20 points, with a searing break from halfway and eight faultless goals.

Briers missed with his four kicks at goal, which might have put more pressure on Penrith, particularly before half-time, when Forster touched down a precision kick through by the dependable Sculthorpe and Roper took a long pass by Briers to score at the right corner.

Roper's second try was another uplifting moment, but one that arrived too late, after Girdler's try and Adamson's second in the first five minutes of the second period. Adamson's third was registered when Warrington were a player down, Briers having been sent to the sin-bin for a professional foul, while Farrar scored the last.

SCORERS: Penrith: Tries: M Adamson (3) Thompson, Domic, Williams, Girdler, Farrar. Goals: Girdler (8). Warrington: Tries: Roper (2), Forster.

PENRITH PANTHERS: P Jorgensen, J Williams, B Thompson, S Domic, R Beckett, R Girdler, C Gower, P Adamson, D Farrar, C McNamara, M Adamson, T Puletua, J Gall. Substitutes: B Boyd, D Brown, D MacGillivray, C Hicks.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roper, S Finau, N Vagana, M Forster, K Shelford, L Briers, W Stevens, W Swann, M Hilton, I Knott, T Tatupu, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: G Mann, M Wainwright, C Causey, A Duncan.

Referee: B Grant

Pride comes after fall in gentile world of bowls

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

A TALE of ghastly injuries, vituperative rows and a cosmic fit of the sulks ... great matters inspire great passions. This can only mean that we have returned to bowls.

It all goes back to the time when David Cutler, 41, was knocked off his bike between his place of work, in Plymouth, and his home, in Saltash. He broke his arm, developed a frozen shoulder and has water on the knee.

He is also a mean bowler and won a gold medal at the world outdoor fours championship in Adelaide last year. He nurses ambitions in the game of singles and had set his sights on a place in the national championship in Worthing, but, as he fought to qualify, he found himself thrown out of the competition.

Matters came to a head at the Sir Francis Drake club in Plymouth. On a day in June, Cutler won his three matches, but then refused to play a fourth — this one against John Stringfellow, the county champion. He had been on the green for six hours already and was feeling his biking hurts. "I felt it was unfair to expect me to play four games in one day," he said.

"Out you go then," the organisers said. "Stringfellow wins by default."

Cutler appealed to the Devon emergency committee, who confirmed that, under county rules, nobody should be expected to play four games in a day. Cutler was reinstated. He has spent the subsequent six weeks, he says, ready and willing to take on Stringfellow.

Eventually, county officials had to order the two to play, the time fixed for yesterday morning. Stringfellow declined to turn up "for personal reasons". Close observers speculate on a monumental case of the sulks.

Bowling people do not mince their words. "I am stunned and disappointed at John's unsportsmanlike attitude," Cutler said. "I am sorry he has lost the county title in such an unsatisfactory way, but it was through no fault of my own."

Quality width

The Channel has seen some extraordinary people, none more so than Mike Taylor, who is not quite the run-of-the-mill nutcase you find at Tooting Bec Lido, the largest unheated outdoor pool in Europe. Taylor, 32, has multiple sclerosis, cannot walk without sticks and is unable to use his legs to swim. A few lengths "arms only" is the biggest torture that swimmers have devised. Taylor aims to swim a quick width of La Manche in a relay with a team of five. "This will put years of swimming at the lido to the ultimate test," he said.

Rovers return

Major league baseball is still struggling to recover the damage done to its attendances by the strike of 1994-95. I am happy to say that, in some areas, audiences have increased hugely. This is most noticeable in the case of dogs. In Chicago, the dog audience has soared by 32.4 per cent. Chicago White Sox have, in the past two seasons, held a "Dog Day", in which all persons accompanied by a dog are admitted free. Dog Day 1996 attracted 321 dogs: Dog Day II, this year, brought in 425.

Warm feeling

This column does not shrink from its unpleasant duty of reporting off-colour stories. So, I must pass on the bizarre truth that the greatest footballer in the world is a bed-wetter. Ronaldo, the Boy Wonder, future Internazionale player, Brazilian and at 20, the player over whom half the people in European football are fighting, admired as much, not in private, but on Brazilian television. "I dream I am going to the bathroom," he explained helpfully, "and instead ..." — Ronaldo's, not this column's, ellipsis. His waterworks also played him up, he said, after he had scored in the Olympic tournament last year. We are all happier for knowing that.

Duck shoved

Miniature golf is a very serious game, and you mock miniature golfers at your peril. So it happened that Manfred A. Stewart, a professional miniature golfer, punched a cavorting mascot at a baseball game. He struck no less a personage than the Richmond Diamond Duck, who, beneath the ridiculous costume, was, in fact, female. She was doing her stuff as mascot for the Richmond Braves of Virginia (a minor league farm club of the Atlanta Braves), but she crossed the line beyond which a mascot should not stray with a professional miniature golfer. Stewart received a 30-day suspended sentence and was fined $25 (about £15).

Pearce joins Newcastle

STUART PEARCE yesterday signed a three-year contract with Newcastle United, worth £2 million, after being granted a free transfer by Nottingham Forest. Pearce, 35, wants to play in the FA Carling Premiership in order to improve his prospects of playing for England in the World Cup finals in France next year. Having passed a medical and agreed terms, Pearce will make his debut in a pre-season match away to Birmingham City today.

David Hopkin, the Crystal Palace midfield player, has decided to join Leeds United in a deal worth £3.25 million.

IN BRIEF

Swimming: Graeme Smith, the Olympic bronze medal-winner last year, won the ASA national 1,500 metres freestyle title in 15min 17.70sec at Crystal Palace yesterday to set himself up as favourite for the European title in Seville next month. Ian Wilson, of Leeds, finished second to become the only swimmer so far added to the Seville squad.

Rugby union: Colin Herridge has resigned as chairman of the finance committee of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), citing continuing conflicts within the RFU as the reason. His successor is Graham Cattermole. Fran Cotton, manager of the British Isles on their recent successful tour of South Africa, has joined the RFU's management board.

Athletics: James Beckford, who won a long jump silver medal for Jamaica at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, has been banned for three months after testing positive for ephedrine, a performance-enhancing drug, at the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix meeting in Paris on June 25.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 4 Chicago Cubs 3 (10inns); Houston 1 San Francisco 3; Florida 8 Los Angeles 7; Philadelphia 4 Montreal 5; Pittsburgh 5 Cincinnati 9; Atlanta 8 Colorado 2; St Louis 1 San Diego 3

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 11 Kansas City 3; Baltimore 9 Boston 12; Chicago White Sox 2 New York Yankees 4; Milwaukee 2 Cleveland 3; Texas 1 Toronto 9; Anaheim 9 Detroit 4; Seattle 7 Minnesota 9 (12inns).

BOWLS

EASTBOURNE: Open tournament: Pairs: Fifth round: M Longley and A Bunce bt R Taylor and D Weaver 31-20; C O'Sullivan and K Beaney bt B Robinson and A Hemmings 20-15; T Moss and J McGuinness bt R Tappenden and R Gilbert 21-11; C Wright and S Jeapes bt W and M Letman 20-13; J Watson and J Tait bt E Denman and E Roberts 20-17; D Brown and E Chapman bt D Fermor and P Hill 20-15; K Hook and J King bt A and F Turner 20-15; R Hodd and R Boswell bt A and G Williams 18-17.

CYCLING

MANCHESTER: National track championships: Junior (1km): B Wiggins (Condor) 1min 08.987sec (championship record). Senior (1km): 1, C MacLean (City of Edinburgh) 1min 04.830sec (championship record); 2, J Queally (CC Lancashire) 1:05 066; 3, C Hoy (City of Edinburgh) 1:05.740

ROAD RACE: London-Brighton-London (Tricycle, 106 miles): R Dadswell (Antelope-Radford) 4hr 50min 44sec (national record).

FENCING

CAPE TOWN: World championships (selected results): Men: Team épée: First round (selected results): Great Britain bt Ecuador 48-15; Ireland bt Croatia 45-38. Second round: Hungary bt Great Britain 45-24. Cuba bt Ireland 45-18. Quarter-finals: France bt Belarus 41-28; Cuba bt Hungary 45-34; Italy bt Russia 45-40; Germany bt Poland 45-44. Semi-finals: Cuba bt France 45-41; Germany bt Italy 40-38. Final: Cuba bt Germany 45-34. Third-place play-off: Italy bt France 45-32. Women: Epée: Quarter-finals: Z Ortiz-Puente (Cuba) bt I Duplitzer (Ger) 15-11; T Chappe (Sp) bt I Tarchini (Switz) 15-6; G Szalay (Hun) bt A Hormay (Hun) 15-6; M Garcia-Soto (Cuba) bt T Nagy (Hun) 15-12. Semi-finals: Ortiz-Puente bt Chappe 15-7; Garcia-Soto bt Szalay 15-7. Final: Garcia-Soto bt Ortiz-Puente 15-13.

FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Bashley 1 Bournemouth 1; Bath City 1 Scunthorpe United 5; Bohemians 3 Crusaders 1; Faaberg (Nor) 0 Tottenham Hotspur 2; IFK Gothenburg (Swe) 1 Liverpool 0; Macclesfield 0 Dundee 3; Morecambe 0 Carlisle United 2; Scarborough 0 Oldham Athletic 0; Shelbourne 0 Huddersfield Town 2; St Patrick's Athletic 1 Sunderland 4; Steinkjer (Nor) 0 Leeds United 6; Tiverton Town 0 Barnsley 3; UCD 0 Swindon Town 3.

GOLF

MADISON, Mississippi: Deposit Guarantee Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 64: M Brisky, C Kanada. 65: D Pooley, J P Hayes. 66: W Austin, J Sindelar, S Kendall, B Chamblee, M Christie, D Berganio, S Jurgensen. 67: D Tewell, D Peoples, D Toms, D Ogrin, J Adams, J H Horgen, J O'Keefe, B Wadkins, H Sutton, S Verplank, B Claar, S McRoy. 68: R Zokol (Can), G Hjertstedt (Swe). 71: D Halldorson (Can), B Hughes (Aus), A Painter (Aus). 76: H Kase (Japan).

NEW ROCHDALE, New York: JAL Big Apple Women's Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 64: M Redman. 66: C Schreyer, K Webb (Aus), H Alfredsson (Swe). 67: M Will, Halpin. 68: H Stacy, B Mucha, M McGeorge, C Johnson, A Benz, E Danilof (Swe). 69: T J Myers, S Little (SA), R Jones, T Barrett, J Piers, R Hetherington, D Ammaccapane. Other European scores: 70: C Pierce (GB), C Nilsmark (Swe). 71: L Davies (GB), A Sorenstam (Swe). 72: S Maynor (GB), S Strudwick (GB), H Dobson (GB), S Croce (It). 74: P Wright (GB), A M Palli (Fr). 75: L Alderete (Sp), C Hj Koch (Swe). 77: K Davies (GB).

ABERDARE: Golf Foundation Weetabix age group championships: Regional finals: Winners: Boys: Under-16: 75: R Thomas (Aberdare). Under-15: 78: C Mills (Llantrisant and Pontyclun). Under-14: 78: L James (Brynhill). Under-13: 89: E Jones (Newport, Pemb). Girls: Under-17: 79: C Cole (Monmouthshire). Under-16: 92: J Pritchard (Tredegar Park). Under-15: 79: A Highgate (Wenvoe Castle).

HAWKSTONE PARK, Shropshire: Lawrence Levy British blind masters tournament: Leading final scores: 291: D Morris 63, 76, 76, 76. 307: B Ritchie 73, 79, 78, 77. 308: A Stewart 80, 74, 77, 77; M Gardener 72, 79, 79, 78. 309: T Rowlinson 74, 81, 73, 81. 314: M Loten 77, 79, 81, 77.

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: Representative match: England Under-21 5 Centenary Club 6.

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: Schools: Ashburton Shield (teams, 200yd and 300yd). 1, Sedbergh 480; 2, Cheltenham 462; 3, Elizabeth Coll 467. All Hallows Trophy (winning coach): J Jones (Sedbergh). Cadet pairs: 1, Dollar Academy 120; 2, Sedbergh 113; 3, St John's 112. Cadet fours: 1, Dollar 228; 2, George Heriot's 219; 3, Sedbergh 217. Staff: 1, T Adams (Cheltenham) 64; 2, P Hicks (RGS Guildford) 60; 3, C Stewart (Dollar) 59. Victoria College Trophy: 1, J Tablason (Canadian Cadets) 70 11; 2, D Crawford (Canadian Cadets) 70.9; 3, S Harding (Sevenoaks) 70 8. Financial Times Cup (snapshooting): 1, W Hooper (Malvern) 50; 2, C Watson (Uppingham) 49; 3, J Brettell (Cheltenham) 40. Schools Snapshooting Cup: 1, Oratory 371; 2, Sedbergh 364; 3, Uppingham 346. Green Howards Country Life Trophy (300yd): Sedbergh 242. Kinder Cup (200yd): Sedbergh 238.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Sheffield 62 Berwick 28. Postponed: King's Lynn v Coventry

PREMIER LEAGUE: Ipswich 51 Poole 39

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League Visa world club championship

Pool A

Penrith 48 Warrington 12

Penrith Panthers: Tries: M Adamson 3, Domic, Farrar, Girdler, Thompson, Williams. Goals: Girdler 8. Warrington Wolves: Tries: Roper 2, Forster. Att: 5,360.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Featherstone 30 St Helens 16; Warrington 4 Wigan 56; Oldham 28 Hull Kingston Rovers 10.

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Sydney City 12 Manly 21.

SWIMMING

CRYSTAL PALACE: National championships: Finals: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, M Foster (Bath University) 23.28sec; 2, G Meadows (City of Leeds) 23 83; 3, J Birds (City of Cardiff) 24.23. 1,500m freestyle: 1, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 15min 17 70sec; 2, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 15 18 73; 3, G Hudson (Portsmouth Northsea) 15 42.23; 4, P Palmer (Bath University) 15 43 87. 100m backstroke: 1, A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham) 2min 02 40sec; 2, S Milnes (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:03 18; 3, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 2:04 21. 100m breaststroke: 1, R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears) 1min 03 55sec; 2, G Brettell (City of Salford) 1.04 92; 3, A Ayers (City of Swansea) 1 05 13. 400m medley: 1, T Kinugasa (Japan) 4min 25 40sec; 2, B Lafferty (City of Leeds) 4:29 47; 3, A Turner (City of Salford) 4:32 16. Women: 100m freestyle: 1, K Pickering (Ipswich) 56 66sec; 2, J Craig (Haverhill) 58 15; 3, C Huddart (City of Leeds) 58.22. 200m backstroke: 1, H Don-Duncan (Ashton Central) 2min 15 79sec; 2, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2:16 12; 3, K Osher (Ealing) 2 17 87. 50m butterfly: 1, C Foot (York City Baths Club) 28.30sec; 2, S Rolph (City of Newcastle) 28 53; 3, M Unie (Ger) 28.60

TENNIS

WASHINGTON: Men's tournament (United States unless stated): Third round: P Korda (Cz) bt F Wibier (Holl) 6-4, 6-4; S Draper (Aus) bt S Campbell 6-3, 7-6; D Wheaton bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6; V Spadea bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 5-7, 7-6, 6-3; T Haas (Ger) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; R Schuttler (Ger) bt D Flach 4-6, 6-2, 7-6; M Chang bt M Joyce 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; B Steven (NZ) bt L Smith (Aus) 7-6, 6-2. Quarter-final: Steven bt Schuttler 6-3, 6-3

STUTTGART: Men's tournament: Third round: A Costa (Sp) wo B Becker (Ger). Quarter-finals: A Corretja (Sp) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; Costa bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-4, 6-4

PALERMO: Women's tournament: Second round: B Paulus (Austria) bt S Cecchini (It) 6-1, 6-4; E Makarova (Russ) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; B Schett (Austria) bt N van Lottum (Fr) 6-1, 6-3; E Gagliardi (Switz) bt A Gavaldon (Mex) 6-2, 6-1; I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt P Begerow (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 6-1; S Testud (Fr) bt L Garrone (It) 1-6, 6-4, 6-2; V Ruano Pascual (Sp) bt G Pizzichini (It) 6-4, 6-4; S Farina (It) bt S de Ville (Bel) 7-5, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Makarova bt Farina 7-5, 7-6; Schett bt Ruano Pascual 6-3, 5-7, 7-6.

PRAGUE: Women's tournament: Second round: J Kruger (SA) bt N Louarsabichvili (Geo) 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. Quarter-finals: M Maruska (Austria) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; Kruger bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; C Cristea (Rom) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-2, 2-6, 7-5; V Martinek (Ger) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-4, 6-0

DIDSBURY: Men's tournament (Great Britain unless stated): Second round: M Petchey bt J Knowle (Austria) 6-3, 6-3; O Burrieza (Sp) bt M Lee 6-3, 6-3; D Sapsford bt T Spinks 6-7, 7-5, 6-2; M Navarra (It) bt J Delgado 6-3, 6-2; D Norman (Bel) bt S Sweeck (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; S Pescosolido (It) bt J Holmes (Aus) 6-0, 6-4; C Wilkinson bt C Haggard (SA) 7-5, 7-5; A Hunt (NZ) bt M Draper (Aus) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6. Quarter-finals: Petchey bt Navarra 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Sapsford bt Wilkinson 6-7, 6-3, 6-2; Pescosolido bt Hunt 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Burrieza bt Norman 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, first day of three
LORD'S: Middlesex v Australians

Tour match
11.0, first day of three
TAUNTON: Somerset v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum
CANTERBURY: Kent v Leicestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Sussex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Essex
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire
GUILDFORD: Surrey v Hampshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League Visa world club championship
Pool B
Perth v Sheffield (12.30) ....

RUGBY UNION

International match
Canada v Wales
(in Toronto, 8.0) ....

FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Carlisle v Falkirk (3.0); Clyde v West Ham (3.0); Gillingham v Crystal Palace (3.0); Hartlepool v Middlesbrough (2.0); Lincoln v Nottingham Forest (3.0), Notts County v Bolton (3.0); Reading v Chelsea (3.0); St Mirren v Norwich (3.0); Torquay v Leicester (3.0); Tranmere v Everton (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Grampian Television International Pairs (in Aberdeen).
BOXING: World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation featherweight championships: N Hamed (Sheffield, holder) v P Maurin (Arg). British super-middleweight championship: D Starie (Ipswich, holder) v D Francis (Basingstoke). British welterweight championship: K *Lueshing (Beckenham, holder) v G McCreesh* (Bracknell) (all at Wembley Arena).
CYCLING: National track championships (Manchester, 10.30am). Men's and women's national championship 100 miles (Didcot, 5.20am)
GOLF: Open Championship (at Royal Troon)
HOCKEY: Women's representative match: England Under-21 v Great Britain development squad (at Bisham Abbey, 2.0)
ROWING: National championships (in Nottingham)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: *Bradford v* Peterborough (7.30); Coventry v Belle Vue (7.30); Eastbourne v Wolverhampton (7.30); Swindon v Ipswich (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Exeter (6.30); Stoke v Newport (7.30). Amateur League: Berwick v Exeter and Newport (6.0).
SWIMMING: National championships (at Crystal Palace).
TENNIS: Challenger tournament (in Manchester).

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
LORD'S: Middlesex v Australians

Tour match
11.0, second day of three
TAUNTON: Somerset v Pakistan A

Axa Life League
2.0, 40 overs
CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire v Derbyshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Leicestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Sussex
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Essex
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire
GUILDFORD: Surrey v Hampshire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Glamorgan
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Durham
MCC TROPHY (one day): Semi-finals: St George's, Telford: Shropshire v Devon. *Dean Park, Bournemouth: Dorset v Norfolk.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League Visa world club championship
Pool A
Auckland v Bradford (3.30am) ....
Halifax v Canterbury (3.0) ....
Wigan v Brisbane (6.35) ....

Pool B
Hunter v Castleford (5.30am) ....

First division
Featherstone v Keighley (6.0)
Huddersfield v Widnes (3.30)
Hull v Workington (3.15)
Wakefield v Swinton (3.30)
Whitehaven v Dewsbury (3.30) ....

Second division
Batley v Rochdale (3.15) ....
Bramley v Barrow (3.0)
Carlisle v Prescot (3.0)
Hunslet v York (3.30)
Leigh v Lancashire Lynx (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Open Championship (at Royal Troon)
HOCKEY: Mixed international: England v Wales (at St Margaret's Pasture, Leicester, 2.30). Women's representative match: England Under-21 v Great Britain development squad (at Bisham Abbey, 2.0).
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship (at Oulton Park)
ROWING: National championships (in Nottingham)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Peterborough v Belle Vue (6.0). Premier League: Newcastle v Exeter (6.30); Newport v Glasgow (2.30). Amateur League: Lathallan v Exeter and Newport (2.30). *Mildenhall v Belle Vue (2.30)*. Peterborough v St Austell (7.30)
SWIMMING: National championships (at Crystal Palace)

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a Golf lesson with David Leadbetter

DAVID LEADBETTER GOLF ACADEMY

Today *The Times* offers two lucky readers the chance to win a golf lesson with David Leadbetter, The world's leading golf coach. The one-hour session will take place at the Chart Hills Golf Club, Biddenden, Kent, next Thursday, July 24. Our two winners also have the chance to play a round of golf on the Nick Faldo designed course, and will be treated to lunch in the Clubhouse.

HOW TO ENTER Call our hotline before 10.30am, Tuesday July 22, with your answer to this question: ***Which of these players is presently coached by David Leadbetter?***

a) Colin Montgomerie **b)** Nick Faldo **c)** Fred Couples

Normal TNL competition rules apply.

Call 0891 102 713
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0891 calls cost 50p/min. 1550 calls cost 68p/min.

CHANGING TIMES

CYCLING 43
Ullrich stamps authority on Tour de France

SPORT

CRICKET 44-45
Hampshire hoist themselves from depths of despair

Irishman revives memories of former winner with dominant performance

Clarke leaves Open rivals in his wake

By John Hopkins, golf correspondent

FIFTY years ago, the Ferrari car company was founded in May and a professional golfer from Northern Ireland, Fred Daly, won the Open Championship in July. These two disparate facts are connected and the connection is that Darren Clarke, a Northern Irishman who drives a Ferrari, is leading the 126th Open at Royal Troon. Clarke added a 66 yesterday to his opening 67 for a 36-hole total of 133 that equals the lowest first 36 holes at Troon. He is nine under par.

Clarke is two strokes ahead of Justin Leonard, the promising Texan, who had the opportunity to record the lowest round of the championship so far, a 65, when, on the sunlit final green and with a full house of spectators ready to acknowledge this achievement, he let a four-foot putt slip by the hole. His 66 equalled the lowest rounds of the day, by Clarke and by Jesper Parnevik, who thereby moved to six under par and three strokes behind the Irishman.

"Darren is a very good player," Fred Couples, who had a 68 to trail Clarke by four strokes, said. "He is very strong and that helps in a tournament like this."

For two days, Clarke has played with maturity and steadiness and putted beautifully, holing out, for example, from 20ft and 10ft on the first two holes and from 20ft again on the 7th, 9th and 14th. In addition, he has benefited from a masterclass on the subject of Troon from Colin Montgomerie, given when they played together in practice. "It was where to go, where not to, what side to miss on, where the flags will go, all that sort of thing," Clarke said.

Daly was a small, portly man with a long swing with which he hit the ball miles. Sam Snead described him as "a prince of a long-iron player". Clarke is a large, cheery-faced young man who has grown in confidence this season and barrelled his way into the Europe Ryder Cup team with a run of five finishes in the top ten of his past eight tournaments.

It was an odd sort of day, made for low scoring because the brisk, northwesterly wind of 20mph that had blown on the first day had gone and been replaced by a deathly stillness that hung like a pall over the course. On such a day, Troon was there to be taken, the opportunity presented for players to gain revenge for some of the indignities it had heaped on them in the first round.

For a long time, only Clarke and Parnevik manhandled the par-71 course. Then, as the day wore on, Mark McNulty, Tom Kite and Mark Calcavecchia came in with 67s, José Maria Olazábal, Couples and Eduardo Romero 68s and Colin Montgomerie a 69 that owed more to his courage than skill. Another failure in the Open for Montgomerie would have been too awful to contemplate, nor would it have been representative of his general golf. It is not possible to be among the world's best golfers and miss the cut in the Open every year. The former contradicts the latter.

Yet, for all this flurry of low scores, there were still only ten men under par as play drew to a close, as there had been at the end of the much more difficult opening day. Jim Furyk, the overnight leader with Clarke, went backwards after a 72, as did Greg Norman after a 73. Tiger Woods ran up an eight on the 10th hole and it took a typically courageous long putt that he rammed home on the 18th green to ensure he reached the last two rounds. Davis Love III started at one under par and, after a 71, stayed that way. They all looked as though they were mired in quicksand.

It was no surprise that Barclay Howard, the Scot who will spearhead Great Britain and Ireland's defence of the Walker Cup in New York next month, should have fallen from grace slightly with a 74. Nevertheless, while staying alongside some of the best men who play golf for a living was always likely to be a tall order, he has guaranteed that he will win the silver medal as the leading amateur, so long as he remembers to turn up today, because he is the only remaining amateur. He and Raymond Russell are the leading Scots.

It may not be immediately obvious what Nick Faldo has in common with Nelson Mandela, Richard Branson, Edward Bond, Dennis Lillee, Jim Watt and John Glenn — the answer is a birthday. As Faldo celebrated his fortieth yesterday, so Lillee was celebrating his 48th, Mandela his 79th, Bond his 63rd, Branson his 47th, Watt his 49th and Glenn his 76th.

Faldo's celebrations were put off until the evening so as not to interfere with his golf, but, by then, he had little to celebrate about his golf. He had a typical Faldo round, made up of pars, one serious lapse, a series of good but not-quite-perfect iron shots and too many poor putts. He began the day at level par and ended it two over after a disappointing 73.

The hole that disorientated Faldo was not the 10th, where Woods struggled, nor the 15th, where Langer had a six. Faldo fell foul of the 4th, the second-longest hole on the course, where he ballooned his third shot into a bunker and then three-putted.

At least he hit the ball seven times for his seven. Tom Lehman, the American striving to make a decent fist of defending his title, hit only five strokes on the 2nd yet ended up with a seven on his card. Having been asked to mark his ball by Vijay Singh, a playing partner, he moved his marker the length of his putter head away from Singh's line and then replaced his ball in the wrong place. The penalty was two strokes.

"It wasn't a real nice way to start the day," Lehman said with understatement. "It put me to six over for the championship, so I guess it's kind of a personal victory to get back to four over par."

A further question was answered yesterday, namely: "What is a Swedish rhapsody?" Three holes in one within 24 hours of an Open. Pierre Fulke's on the 14th on Thursday was followed by an ace by Dennis Edlund at the 8th in the second round and then a third ace by Daniel Olsson on the 5th a few hours later.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: Grandstand, from 1.05pm. BBC2: Live 5.0-7.0pm. Highlights 9.0-9.40pm. Tomorrow: BBC2: Sunday Grandstand, from 1.0pm. Highlights 9.35-10.15pm.

RADIO: Today and tomorrow: BBC Radio 5 Live: from 1.0pm.

WEATHER: Dry and bright, with cool sea breeze

MARC ASPLAND

Clarke, his name standing proudly at the top of the leaderboard, lines up his putt on the 17th green yesterday

Price leads champions' retreat from Troon

By Mel Webb

FOUR past Open champions are among a long list of distinguished players who will not be returning for the last two rounds after missing the cut.

The most recent Open winner to be given an unwanted weekend off was Nick Price, the champion at Turnberry in 1994. The Zimbabwean had a much-improved 72 yesterday, but the damage had been done with a seven-over-par 78 on Thursday. Sandy Lyle, the winner at Royal St George's in 1985, missed out by a handsome six shots on 153.

If there was a small note of cheer to be gained from a missed cut, it went to Severiano Ballesteros, the three-times Open champion. He has endured the most miserable form of his career this season, but bravely went to within a shot of playing all four rounds. Indeed, he had a putt for a birdie at the last and the ball seemed to be going in before it ran out of puff nine inches short.

Gary Player, the South African veteran, finished on 149, seven over par. The three-times Open champion acquitted himself well yesterday with a level-par 71 and, with the cut prediction edging up towards six over par for a time, was kicking himself for a bogey five at the last.

Eventually, though, the mark went back to five, which eased the pangs of guilt assailing Costantino Rocca and Lee Janzen. Rocca started the day on four over par and seemed to be holding things together as he passed the turn in level par, but dropped shots at the 11th and 12th, then double-bogeyed the last to finish eight over.

Janzen, the 1993 US Open champion, let a single stroke slip away on the 18th to leave him seven over. Janzen, like so many other players, improved vastly with a 71 on a calm second day, after his 78 in the wind-hit first round.

Meanwhile, Barclay Howard, who featured strongly on the leaderboard on Thursday, became certain to win the silver medal for the best amateur performance. He added a 74 to the one-under-par 70 that he scored in the first round to finish on 144, two over par. The other six amateurs in the field went out.

Couples: impressed

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERBOARD

4 Par · Under par · Over par

Royal Troon: Par 71 (7,079 yards)

Outward nine - 36 (3,429 yards); Inward nine - 35 (3,650 yards)

Total under par	Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1st rnd	2nd rnd	3rd rnd	4th rnd	Total
	Yards	364	391	379	557	210	577	402	126	423	438	463	431	465	179	457	542	223	452					
	Par	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4					
9	D Clarke	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	2	4	3	3	4	67	66			133
7	J Leonard	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	5	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	69	66			135
6	J Parnevik	5	4	4	3	3	5	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	70	66			136
5	F Couples	3	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	69	68			137
3	J Furyk	4	4	4	6	3	5	5	2	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	67	72			139
3	T Kite	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	72	67			139
2	A Cabrera	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	2	3	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	3	4	70	70			140
1	T Watson	3	3	4	5	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	3	5	4	3	5	71	70			141
1	J Haas	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	3	5	4	4	5	3	5	5	3	4	71	70			141
1	M Calcavecchia	3	4	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	3	2	4	5	3	3	74	67			141

Leonard: improving

LEFT WINGERS

C'mon you reds
ITF starts July 28th.

Cricket seeks satellite solution

By Alan Lee
Cricket correspondent

CRICKET is launching a passionate defence of its negotiating ability in the broadcasting market, claiming that government policy denying satellite television the chance to bid for exclusive rights to broadcast Test matches will endanger the development of the game.

Alarmed by plans to increase rather than relax the practice of listing sporting events that must be available on terrestrial television, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has set out the game's case for de-listing home Tests. The submission has been sent to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport this week.

Within it lies a stark warning about the effect of the 1996 Broadcasting Act and the new Government's determination to reinforce it: "Even the future survival of some of the first-class county clubs could be at risk, quite apart from any crucial development activity at grassroots level."

The submission points out that broadcasting rights now account for more than 40 per cent of cricket's income. Next year, the revenue from television will be £18 million, but the figure will alter dramatically, either up or down, depending on the Government's response.

The ECB bases its argument on the fact that Test cricket accounts for 190 hours of live television each year — more than the combined total of all the other domestic sports with listed events. The Board says "it is patently unfair" to place its entire flagship product against 90 minutes of the FA Cup Final, or a little more than two minutes of The Derby. It also stresses that other listed events bring competition from most terrestrial stations, whereas Test cricket is in a single-customer market.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has had cricket's dilemma outlined to him by Terry Blake, the ECB Board's marketing director, and Brian Downing, the chairman of the marketing committee. He has promised to reconsider the game's status.

Three years ago, Blake and Downing achieved a negotiating triumph, satisfactory both to the BBC and BSkyB and worth £60 million to the game over four years. This contract, which awarded live coverage of home Test series to the BBC and one-day internationals to BSkyB, with highlights packages in reverse, expires next year.

If BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, which owns *The Times*, is effectively prevented from bidding, the BBC will be able to retain Test cricket for substantially less than its market value, simply through an absence of opposition. Should its hands remain tied, the ECB estimates that television income could drop to as little as £12 million a year, instead of making the hoped-for advance to £30 million or more by the millennium, and the consequences of such a fall in revenue would be severe.

Marcus Trescothick hit 322 as Somerset lost to Warwickshire by six runs after being set 612 to win in the Second XI championship match at Taunton yesterday. Trescothick was the last man out, run out.

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CRICKET 44-45
Hampshire hoist themselves from depths of despair

Men who put the magic in Mercedes' mini

Page 3

CAR 97

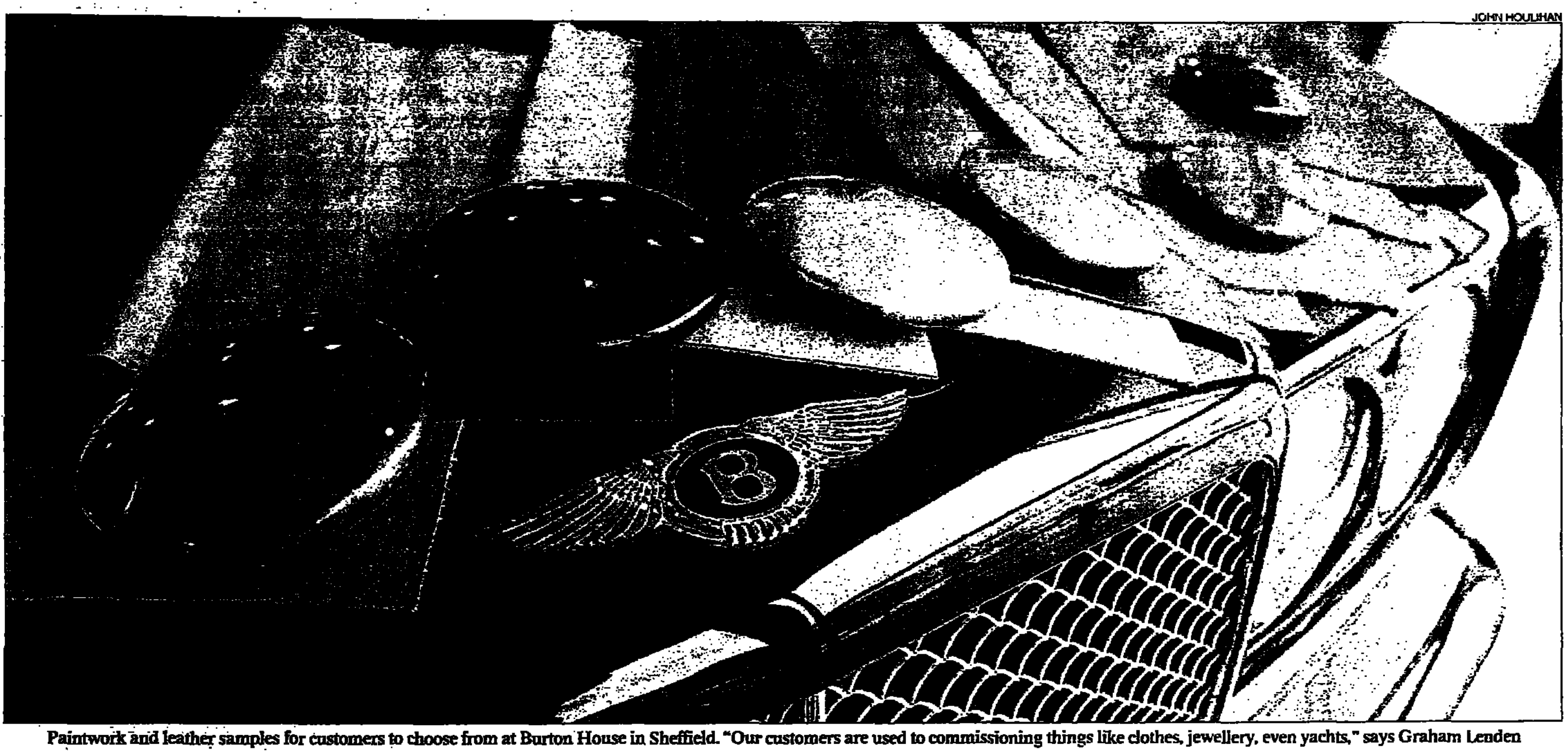
SATURDAY JULY 19 1997

For sale: racing car with a history of murder

Page 5

Alan Copps experiences time travel at the wheel of a turbocharged giant from Crewe

JOHN HOULIHAN



Paintwork and leather samples for customers to choose from at Burton House in Sheffield. "Our customers are used to commissioning things like clothes, jewellery, even yachts," says Graham Lenden

Bentley goes back to the future

It looked to my experienced eye like a 20-minute queue. But the curse of London's Blackwall Tunnel struck hard this time and we were obliged to sit and chat in air-conditioned comfort for *at least an hour while the children* in the back seats watched almost the entire video of *Fantasia*.

There's a lot to be said for driving a modern Bentley in such circumstances. At one time a die-hard Bentley enthusiast might mutter at this point "and not a lot to be said at any other time". But even the band who revere the marque's founder "W.O." as an automotive saint and have mourned ever since Rolls-Royce took over the company in 1931 would agree these days.

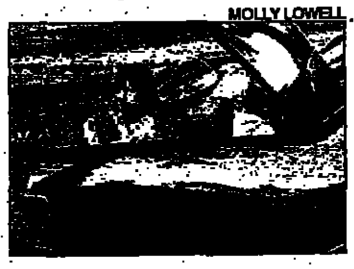
The car in question was a Bentley Turbo RT, one of a number of new four-door Rolls-Royce and Bentley models launched last week and it was when the traffic cleared that its merits were best appreciated. After all, if you're paying around £149,000 for a car you have every right to expect top-class leather and finest walnut, lambswool rugs, a cocktail cabinet, fridge, in-car video, CD player, built-in mobile phone and seats like armchairs.

But you might just raise an eyebrow when you put your foot down and the whole 2¼ tons of Blenheim Palace on wheels hits 60mph in less than six seconds. I regret to say there was nowhere that I could test the 150mph "governed" maximum speed. But if you told me this space ship could reach warp factor 9.8 and beat the *Starship Enterprise* to the Delta Quadrant, I'd believe it. My American guests were impressed as we made up time on the way to our picnic at Leeds Castle in Kent (hungry from the delay, my daughter jumped into the boot to eat).

What Rolls-Royce has done to the Bentley marque in the last 15 years is an example of time travel. The basic shape has not changed greatly since the cars were open to criticism as simply rebadged Rolls-Royces, but the character has changed radically back towards the cars that W.O. made. Ray Wiltshire, President of the Bentley Drivers Club, and as likely to be seen at the wheel of a vintage Le Mans "blower" as a modern "space ship" says: "I'm delighted with the way the company has been returning to the roots of the marque. I think the spirit they are bringing to *its revival is tremendous.*"

Bentleys now account for 60 per cent of the company's sales worldwide and what the Turbo RT shows is that the magic breathed on two-door models like the Continental T and convertible Azure can be *successfully translated to four-door* models. The heart of that change must lie in the turbocharging of the 6.75-litre V8 engine, boosting power to a mighty 400bhp. Advances in roadholding and handling have kept pace with sheer power and for such a hefty package the car is astonishingly agile.

MOLLY LOWELL



My daughter jumped into the boot for her picnic

But in launching this latest range of four-door models, the company has taken another step back to the future by emphasising the degree to which buyers can "bespoke" their cars. Of course, there's never been a Rolls-Royce or Bentley that wasn't bespoke to a greater or lesser degree. In days gone by both companies would build only running chassis and any buyer would go to his favoured coachbuilder to commission bodywork and fittings. Now by stepping up the operations of coachbuilders Mulliner Park Ward at its Crewe factory the company is offering a great deal more of this service directly.

"Rolls-Royce is the only British-owned marque in the world's top ten recognised brands. We've got to be very special. The first step to a bespoke car is to sit down with a designer and explore the purpose *for which a customer wants a car,*" says Graham Morris, Chief Executive of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Graham Lenden, product marketing manager, says: "We want visiting the factory to be part of the experience. It's like going to your *favourite tailor. We are in the high* luxury sector. Our customers are used to commissioning things like clothes, jewellery, art, even yachts."

The extreme examples of commissioning the company quotes are the "Talamo Bentley", a Continen*tal R* in stripped-out racing form ordered by Italian dealer Carlo Talamo, and the ultimate Rolls-Royce Park Ward, a limousine with wheelbase extended by 48ins and laden with special equipment for a ruler in the Far East.

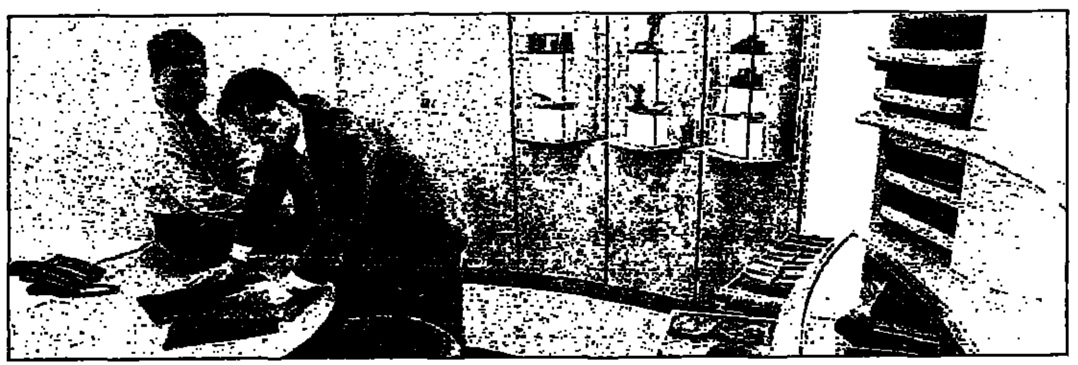
About 1,000 potential customers visited the Crewe factory last year. But to make it easier to involve them in design the "bespoke" treatment is being extended to dealers. A pilot project at Burton House in Sheffield has proved enormously successful. "We opened our doors five months ago and have sold 32 cars, 17 Bentley Turbo Rs, two Azures, two Continental Ts, six Brooklands, three Rolls-Royce Silver Spurs and two Silver Dawns. But only one was to be chauffeur driven," says general manager John Mason.

The showroom has separate Rolls-Royce and Bentley commissioning booths with choices of everything from paintwork to piping. The idea has worked so well that the company has produced its own limited edition Continental named the Chatsworth after the stately home of a customer, the Duke of Devonshire.

With its hide-covered top rails, black chrome and angled central console, it's a strikingly modern car for a "traditional" maker and at £245,000 about £20,000 more than the basic car. When I arrived the boxer Prince Naseem Hamed, fresh from a prang in a Ferrari, had just been out on a test drive.

PETER TREVNOR

The Bentley Turbo RT is a Blenheim Palace on wheels that hits 60mph in less than six seconds



Burton House: "We opened five months ago and have sold 32 cars — only one chauffeur driven"

Silver Ghost, gold quality

Lord Montagu recalls the launch by his father of the most famous Rolls-Royce model in 1908

When my father switched on the electric current to inaugurate the new Derby factory of Rolls-Royce — "the most perfectly equipped motor works in the kingdom" — on 9 July 1908, he remarked: "There is one reason why I think the Rolls-Royce is the best car in the world and that is because I have just ordered one myself."

That statement was all the more remarkable since it was only four years since Henry Royce had built his first car. However, demand for Rolls-Royce cars had quickly outstripped the capacity of Royce's factory in Cooke Street, Manchester. This in any case had been established for the manufacture of the "dynamos, motors and kindred articles", which had made Henry Royce's name as an electrical engineer, and a "sort of guerilla warfare" was waged between Royce and his works manager over whether mechanics should work on motor cars or the electric cranes which were the mainstay of the business.

Cars might have remained a sideline to the activities of Royce and company had it not been for the arrival on the scene of the Hon C.S. Rolls, third son of Lord Llangattock. Rolls had been one of Britain's first private motorists, and in 1903 had set up in business as a supplier of motor cars to the well-to-do, a business in which he was joined by the former secretary of the Automobile Club, Claude Johnson. The refined qualities of Royce's first car had appealed to Rolls and Johnson, even though it was only a 10hp two-cylinder *model, and they agreed to take all* his production, which they sold under the name "Rolls Royce".

At first, Rolls-Royce had offered a complex range of cars — 10hp twin, 15hp *three, 20hp four and 30hp* six-cylinder — which had been compounded in 1905 by the addition of a V8 power unit used in the short-lived "Legalimit" — which was designed to be incapable of exceeding the 20pmh speed *restriction!*

All of these were soon to be swept away by a 40/50 hp six-cylinder model first seen at the 1906 Olympia Motor Show, in which year the association between the electrical engineer and *the aristocrat was formalised by* the registration of a new company, Rolls-Royce Ltd. It was not an easy birth: investors were wary of new car company launches after a succession of unstable firms had collapsed with heavy losses, and *the issue — vital to the financing of* the new factory — was seriously undersubscribed as the due date neared. It was only the intervention of an enthusiastic Rolls-Royce owner named Arthur Briggs, who agreed to take up the shortfall, *which saved the flotation from* failure.

Early in 1907, work started on the new factory on a greenfield site on the outskirts of Derby, and in

Continued on page 2

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DAIHATSU

Road deaths are down thanks to videocameras, so now it's time to install more of them — financed by the revenue raised from speeding fines

Take a snap in complete safety

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

The four London boroughs that installed speed cameras three years ago could scarcely have dreamt that they would reduce road deaths by 70 per cent. The announcement by Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond and Ealing this week that average annual road deaths are down from 21 to six means that cameras are here to stay.

That was never in much doubt, because the evidence from elsewhere in Britain has been that cameras are a major deterrent. Anyone who has occasionally been foolish enough to risk a speeding fine in areas where there are cameras has noticed that other drivers are travelling markedly slower. In the days before cameras, speeding motorists were one of a pack; now they stand out like the proverbial sore thumb.

Extrapolate the figures from London and the national potential is quite remarkable. At present about 3,600 people are killed each year in road accidents; about one-third of those can be attributed to speed. So if the London percentage fall of 70 per cent applied nationally, 840 lives would be saved each year.

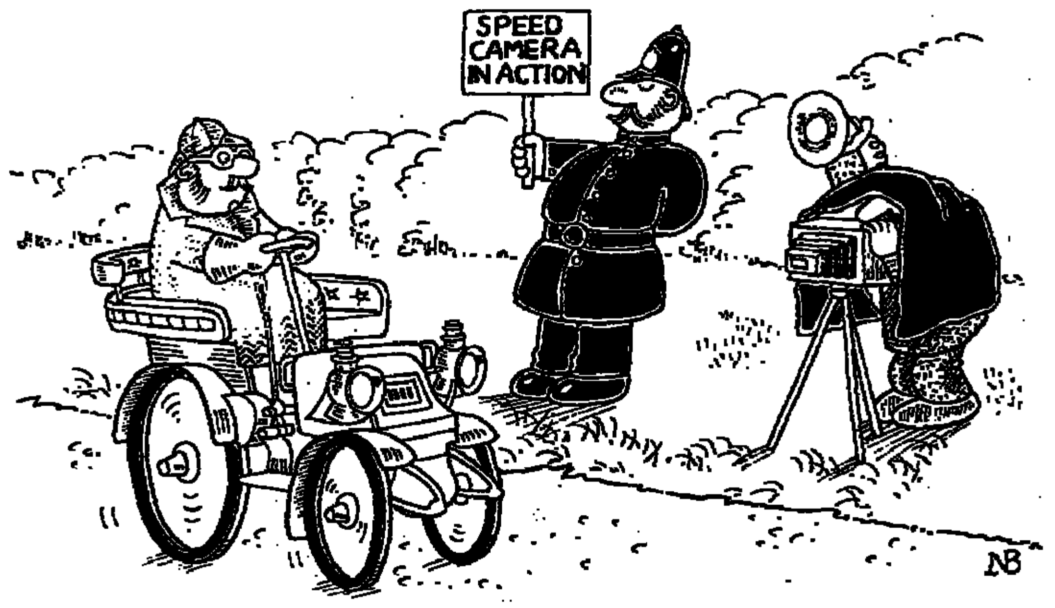
The question that now arises is that if cameras are so successful, why are so few of our roads covered by them? This issue came up on the *Today* programme on Wednesday. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, was asked why cash-starved police authorities could not share the revenue from speeding fines to fund more cameras.

He gave an answer that was too complex for most of us at that hour of the morning; it had something to do with the fact that speeding offences would have to be decriminalised for the revenue to go in that direction. Even a senior police officer on the same programme seemed not to know what Strang was talking about.

In fact, the Minister was quite right. Britain has a bizarre and archaic legal system and not the least of its curiosities is that money raised from criminal fines goes straight to the Treasury, where it disappears into a black hole and re-emerges in the guise of a subsidy to farmers or a luncheon voucher for a civil servant.

Speeding is a crime, therefore if the money raised from speeding tickets is to be spent directly on cameras, which are funded locally, speeding would have to be decriminalised. The fine would then become a charge, and a charge can be raised by local authorities (or indeed police authorities) and spent on specific measures. Parking fines in London boroughs, for example, are not really fines but charges and are payable to the local authority.

Strang said on *Today* that speeding kills people, therefore he was reluctant to decriminalise it. I agree with that, but surely that is looking through the wrong end of the telescope. What we need is not the decriminalising of speeding but a change to the rule that says criminal fines must go to the Treasury. They should go where they can best be used.



The other thing shown by the London accident figures is that the possibility of a speed camera being a dummy, meaning that there is no camera in the pod, does not seem to encourage people to take a chance. This is just as well, but it would obviously be better if all had functioning videocameras, not only used against motorists but also to catch muggers and other anti-social elements.

We need not get too carried away with the idea of cameras as a cure-all, otherwise moralisers will have them installed in hotel rooms and overlooking park benches. But as a means of saving lives, they are clearly here to stay. Loaded *or* not.

I SEE that Tony Blair's Cabinet has agreed to spend at least part of their summer holiday in Britain as part of an effort to boost the home tourist trade. Jolly good. I would strongly suggest that all the transport department politicians head for the South West by car, thus enabling them to travel via the roadworks on the M5 bridge at Avonmouth. Yes, the same roadworks that were in place last year.

Hot August is forecast for dealers

Ready for the rush on R reg? **Vaughan Freeman** reports

Mitsubishi's new 3000 GT (left) offers power and luxury at a hefty £44,600

The new car sales bonanza next month could be the busiest ever as motorists rush to take part in what is likely to be the last of its kind. With the August new-registration letter system about to be revamped, "R" registration sales could go close to the record 500,000 mark, and spending is forecast to be the highest yet.

A survey by windscreen specialists Autoglass reports that British motorists have 30 per cent more money to spend on their cars this August, and that whereas last year motorists spent £7,060 — on top of selling or part-exchanging their old vehicle — to change cars, this summer that will be closer to £9,000.

Alan Pulham, director of the National Franchised Dealers Association, says: "We anticipate 490,000 customers driving out of the nation's showrooms in brand-new cars this August. Whether it is one of the new breed of superminis, or the multi-purpose vehicle, motorists have never had so many options to choose from. There is a car to suit every pocket."

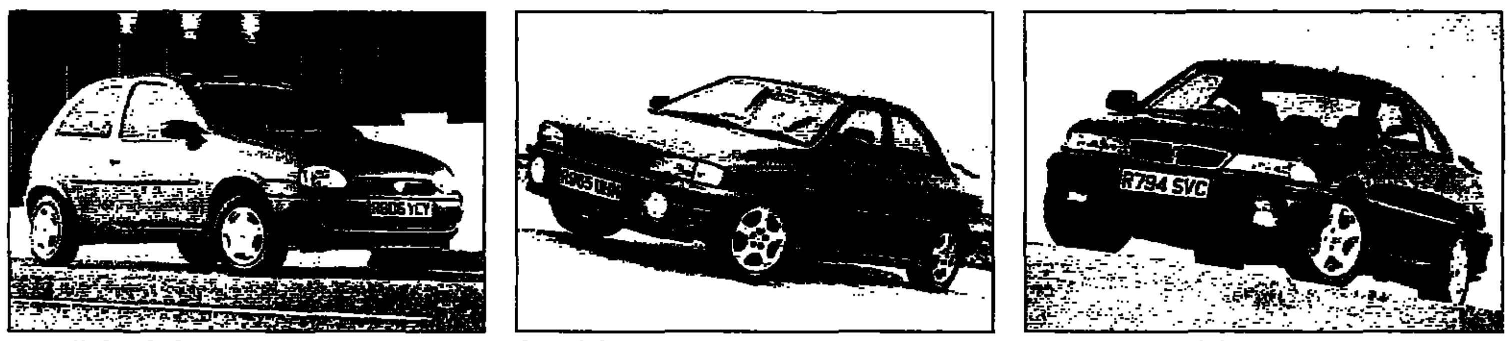
The choice is bewildering, but it does seem that convertibles are making a comeback, and the Renault Megane is one of the most attractive. The Megane's design allows it to convert from a four-seater Cabriolet to a two-seater Roadster. Priced at £16,235 for the 116 mph 1.6-litre, and £19,040 for the 134 mph, 2-litre 16-valve, it offers class-leading performance and value.

Ford revolutionised its image, first with the launch of the Ka, and now of the Puma. Acclaimed as probably the best small car in the world, the striking Ka (£8,015) and the more luxurious Ka2 (£8,860), with power steering, central locking and electric windows, have turned small-car runabouts into trendy fashion statements overnight.

The arrival of the Puma has done much the same by shaking up the Fiesta-sized car segment. The lovely-looking 120 mph 1.7-litre 16-valve Puma, which sells at £14,500, is already in the running for the title of best coupé on the road this year.

The Puma is good, but it pales in comparison with the Lotus Elise. A true sports car, its ultralight aluminium chassis enables the relatively modest 1.8-litre engine to wring maximum fun and supercar acceleration from the £21,000 package.

Lovers of high performance cars who prefer four-wheel drive can choose the Subaru Impreza Catalunya, launched to mark the car firm's 1996 World Rally Championship title. Only 200 of the turbo-charged two-litre Catalunyas will be sold — each individually numbered and priced at £21,610 — for which customers will get all-wheel drive, air conditioning, gold-coloured alloy wheels, and 145 mph performance.



Spoilt for choice: among the new models are, from left, the Vauxhall Corsa GLS; the Subaru Impreza 2.0; and the Rover 1.8 VCC Coupé

More than twice as costly is the Mitsubishi 3000 GT, although its £44,600 price seems to offer twice the goodies, including four-wheel drive, four-wheel steering, and electronically controlled suspension, as well as three-year warranty and a top speed in excess of 150 mph.

Motorists looking for a practical car in a more stylish and innovative alternative package than the usual Mondeo/Vectra family saloon, could do worse than consider the Renault Megane Scenic. A two-litre car with seating for five, the Scenic provides a spacious cabin as well as underfloor lockers and removable seats, and sells from £13,000 to £16,600.

Rover is hoping to boost sales with a range of niche products, in Cabriolet, Coupé and Tourer form, and lower prices, starting with its 1.8-litre VVC (Variable Valve Control) Coupe, priced at £17,995, which borrows the engine from Rover's MGF two-seat sports car.

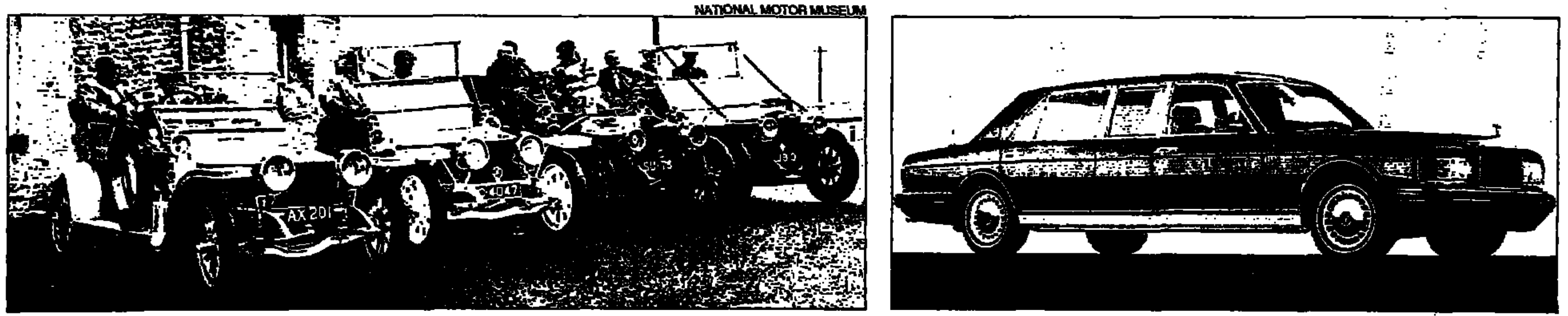
Rover has taken £1,000 off the price of its 1.6-litre Coupé, now priced at £15,995, and has launched a new 1.6-litre SE Coupé with five-spoke alloy wheels, coloured rear spoiler and integral front fog lamps at £16,995. There is also £1,000 off the 1.6-litre Tourer, now priced at £14,995. The 1.6-litre "niche" Cabriolet is priced from £15,995 to £17,495 for the SE version.

At Vauxhall, the £7,500 to £12,500 Corsa range has been updated and has benefited from having Lotus engineers work on its chassis. As well as claiming the most frugal engine in its class, a 1.6-litre unit capable of almost 49 mpg mixed driving and a top speed of 93 mph, a limited edition Corsa, the £8,395 Sting, features £1,400 worth of "free" equipment, including pearlescent paint.

Britain's fourth best-selling car last year, the £12,700 to £22,000 Vauxhall Vectra, now gets anti-lock braking as standard, with air conditioning available across the whole range.

One of the latest people movers to arrive is the eight-seat Vauxhall Sintra, priced from £19,000 to £25,350. The Sintra comes in 2.2-litre 16-valve form offering 29 mpg in mixed driving, and the less economical 24.6 mpg three-litre V6.

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM



A century of style: the original Ghost — AX 201 — at a later rally to commemorate the 15,000-mile trial and the Park Ward, the ultimate in bespoke Rolls-Royce luxury

Continued from page 1

April that year the press at last were given the opportunity to ride in the new car which had been unveiled at the Motor Show. The fastidious Royce had refused to make it available to the public until it met his own uncompromising standards.

Johnson drove the *Autocar's* correspondent from London to Bexhill and back on the twelfth of the new 40/50hp cars to be completed, and the journalist was enchanted: "At whatever speed this car is being driven on its direct third, there is *no* engine so far as sensation goes, nor are one's auditory nerves troubled, driving or standing, by a fuller sound than that emanates from an eight-day clock.

"There is no realisation of driving propulsion; the feeling as the passenger sits either at front or back of the vehicle is one of being wafted through the landscape."

Still unfinished, that car had left the Manchester factory only a few days earlier, but its uncanny silence had already earned it the name of the Silver Ghost, and after that road test it was sent away for its body to be painted with aluminium paint and its metal parts to be silver-plated.

Early in May Silver Ghost was submitted to a 2,000-mile observed long-distance reliability trial under the supervision of what had recently become the Royal Automobile Club, running most of the way against a white steam car — "a car quite as ghostly in its movements" — and, after some early problems with a faultily adjusted carburettor had been cured, was driven from the south coast to Scotland using only the direct-drive third and overdrive fourth speeds.

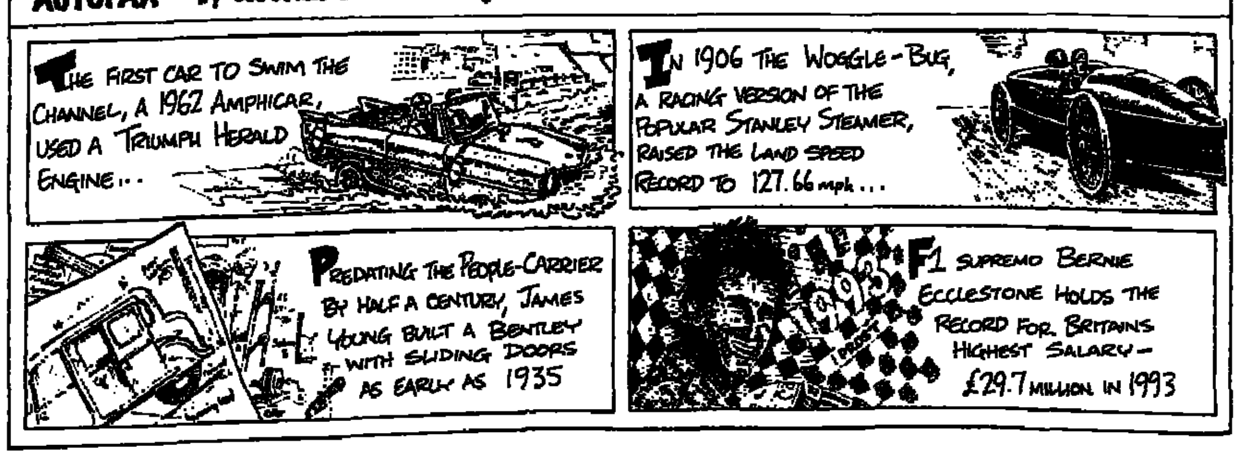
But the test that really showed the supremacy of the Silver Ghost took place between June 21 and August 8, when it covered 15,000 miles, the longest trial distance permitted by the RAC, with only one trifling stop, when the petrol tap shook into the closed position after 629 miles and cut off the supply to the carburettor, causing 60 seconds' delay. To cover 14,371 miles without a breakdown was not only a record but a near miracle in those days, when even the most experienced motorists were frequently benighted by mechanical failures, and when the club dismantled the car after the run, it "was found to be in all respects in perfect running order and in exceptionally good condition . . . had the car been in the hands of a private owner, no replacements would have been considered necessary". As it was, a few small wearing parts were replaced to bring the car to "as new" condition at the trifling cost of £2.2s.7d (£2.16p).

'The feeling at front or back is of wafting through the landscape'

The weekly *Motor* called the trial "the best object lesson on the durability of the modern motor that could possibly be given", while the *Automotor Journal* praised "one of the most conclusive — if not the most conclusive — trials of downright merit in touring car construction which the world has ever seen". And when the *Country Gentleman* commented that the trial reflected "credit not only upon the firm, but upon British engineering as a whole", it was speaking no less than the truth. The Silver Ghost was the car which made the name Rolls-Royce a by-word for excellence and that Rolls-Royce my father ordered in 1908 — one of the limited edition "70hp" models, named Dragonfly — so delighted him that to the end of his days his main car was a Rolls-Royce.

But how I wish he had kept Dragonfly, because today no 70hp models have survived.

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long


THE FIRST CAR TO SWIM THE CHANNEL, A 1962 AMPHICAR, USED A TRIUMPH HERALD ENGINE...
IN 1906 THE WOGGLE-BUG, A RACING VERSION OF THE POPULAR STANLEY STEAMER, RAISED THE LAND SPEED RECORD TO 127.66 mph...
PREDATING THE PEOPLE-CARRIER BY HALF A CENTURY, JAMES YOUNG BUILT A BENTLEY WITH SLIDING DOORS AS EARLY AS 1935
F1 SUPREMO BERNIE ECCLESTONE HOLDS THE RECORD FOR BRITAINS HIGHEST SALARY — £29.7 MILLION IN 1993

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

B506 Great Portland Street, Marylebone/Euston. Carriageway reduced to one lane southbound near the Tube for roadworks.

A2 New Cross. Restrictions on Old Kent Road at various times during the day near to Asylum Road.

A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.

A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).

M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.

A26 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent. Road closed at Westree Road, Western Road and Queens Road.

M40 Oxfordshire Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.

M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.

M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with 50mph limit.

A30 Camborne bypass, Cornwall. Lane closure westbound during drainage work.

A39 near Bush, north of Bude, Cornwall. Resurfacing work with temporary lights.

A30 Sowton, Exeter, Devon. One lane closed towards Honiton. Roadworks between the Business Park and M5 overbridge.

M5 Exeter. One lane closed on the northbound off slip.

A417 Maisemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.

A11 Attleborough, Norfolk. Temporary lights at Roc Road, southbound 9.30am to 4pm.

A140 Norwich. Roadworks with lane restrictions on Harford bridge.

A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.

M54 Shropshire. Contraflow with westbound traffic on the shoulder. Eastbound on to lanes 1 and 2 of westbound carriageway.

A50 Kidsgrove, Staffordshire. Liverpool Road closed due to roadworks between The Avenue and Gloucester Road.

M6 junction 6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to M6 North closed at Salford Circus.

● **NORTH**

A38 South Normanton, Derbyshire. Major Roadworks.

A689 Wolviston, north of Middlesbrough. Reduced to one lane each way between A19 and A1185.

A580 East Lancs Road, Lowton, Greater Manchester. Reduced to one lane westbound near Church Lane.

A671 Burnley. Temporary lights on Bacup Road near Crown Point Road

M65 between Blackburn and Accrington.. Contraflow with westbound entry slip road at junction 7 down to a single lane.

M53 Birkenhead. Carriageway reduced to one lane both ways on Moreton spur. 50mph limit.

A69 between Acomb Turning and Hexham West, Northumberland. Major roadworks with contraflow.

A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, North Yorkshire. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.

M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

● **WALES**

A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenerdy.

A470 Conwy. Temporary lights at Dolwyddelan for improvement work at Bod Unig.

A5 Padog Bends near Betws Y Coed, Conwy. Temporary lights for building work.

A449 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and M4 junction 24 at Newport.

A483 Powys. Temporary lights on Park Road, Builth Wells.

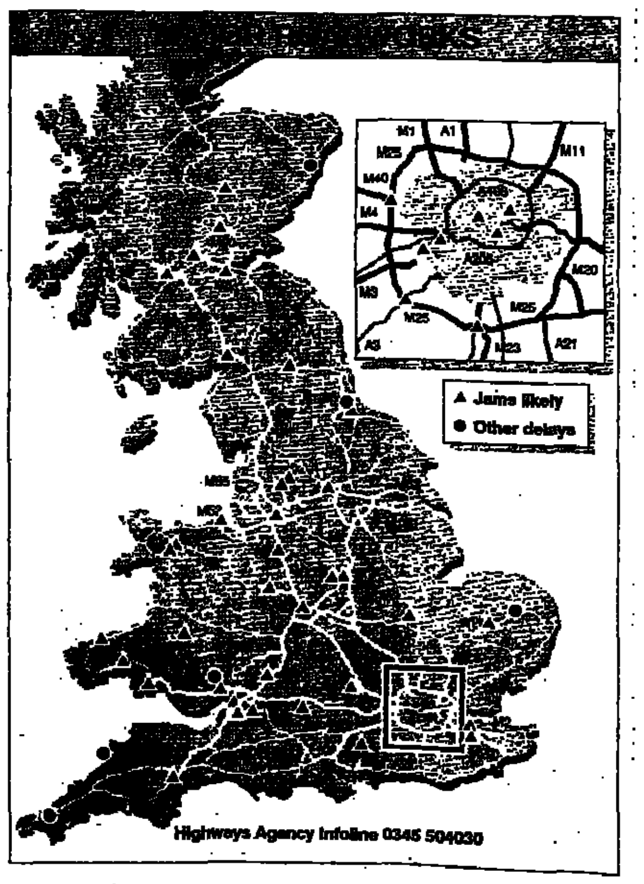
A483 Swansea. Contraflow continues at Fabian Way Docks between Vale of Neath Road and Elba Crescent.

● **SCOTLAND**

Aberdeen Anderson Drive, one lane each way between Seafield Road roundabout and Queens Road.

A74 Dumfries and Galloway. Lane closures between Greenhillstairs and Gretna.

M8 Glasgow. Narrow lanes and speed restrictions each way at Cardonald interchange.



هكذا من الأصل

طبقا عن الأصل

A class of its own from Mercedes

A German revolution has been planned by a Brit. **Vaughan Freeman** explains

Helmut Petri, project development manager, and the Mercedes A-class: "It's our interpretation of innovation and tradition. It will give a new, dynamic and young look to the image of the marque"

Mercedes-Benz has taken the best part of four decades to follow the lead of the revolutionary Mini and produce its first true front-wheel drive car.

But the German manufacturer, better known for its huge rear-wheel drive limousines and executive expresses, is hoping that its new A-class will, like the Mini before it, prove a crucial turning point in the way cars are designed and leave the competition clamouring to catch up.

When Alec Issigonis unveiled his tiny car, there was nothing to touch it for cute styling, the extraordinarily space efficient packaging, and the way seating for four and a modest amount of luggage could pack into its 10ft length.

Mercedes has moved the goalposts in a similar manner — with the aid of a British designer — and, just as the Mini did in 1959, redefined car design by defying the accepted pigeon-holing into estate, saloon, hatchback or Espace-style people mover.

Steve Mattin, 32, joined Mercedes straight after graduating from Coventry Polytechnic 10 years ago, and is responsible for the A-class exterior styling.

Driving the A-class, the feel is of being at the wheel of something much bigger. Inside, it is all Mercedes, from the three-pointed star on the steering wheel to the robust feeling of security and quality build. Only when you step out, and down, from it are you reminded that, far from being in a Mercedes saloon four feet longer, you are in the half-pint sized A-class.

"When the Mini came out, people did not realise just how revolutionary a car it was," Mattin says. "Only after a few years had gone by did that realisation come about. The A-class is just as revolutionary as the Mini was in its time, because it offers so much more than other cars, and all in one package.

"The initial problem we had at Mercedes, used to building saloons, coupés and limousines, was to come to grips with the proportions of the A-class, using a one-box design for maximum interior space."

Mercedes got round that problem by creating in effect a two-storey car, with all the innards such as the petrol tank, axles, battery and exhaust in the "basement", safely stashed under the floor of the body. The occupants sit above the car's busy bits, half a foot or so higher than in a normal road car, which makes them safer in a crash. At the same time, a revolutionary S-shaped engine and gearbox was created which sits at an angle beneath the front passengers, again to save space.

The engine design also increases safety because in an accident the engine is pushed down and back, instead of through the front bulwark and back into the passenger compartment to break legs. The design works so well that inside there is only 4mm less length than in the Mercedes C-class, which is 941m longer on the outside than the A-class.

Helmut Petri, project development manager, says: "The car posed many conflicting problems for us. It had to be short and light, at the same time it had to share the Mercedes virtues of comfort and safety, and it had to be inexpensive.

"The result is a car which is our interpretation of innovation and of tradition. It will give a new, dynamic and young look to the image of the Mercedes-Benz marque."

Mercedes sees its A-class as a sort of automotive Daley Thompson, a roadgoing decathlete able to excel in all disciplines. It will need to. It has spent around £1 billion over the past three years on the A-class and plans to sell 200,000 a year. Of those just under 20,000 will sell after the car goes on sale here this time next year.

Priced at between £14,000 for the entry level A140 1.4-litre Classic, and £17,000 for the A160 1.6-litre Avantgarde, it will be by far the cheapest Mercedes to go on sale in Britain, and the company expects 80 per cent of customers will be "conquest" sales, motorists usually seen in a Ford, VW or Vauxhall.

It will come in three trim levels, and with 1.4-litre (82bhp), or 1.6-litre (102bhp) petrol engines, as well as a 1.7-litre diesel (60bhp) and a 1.7-litre turbodiesel (90bhp).

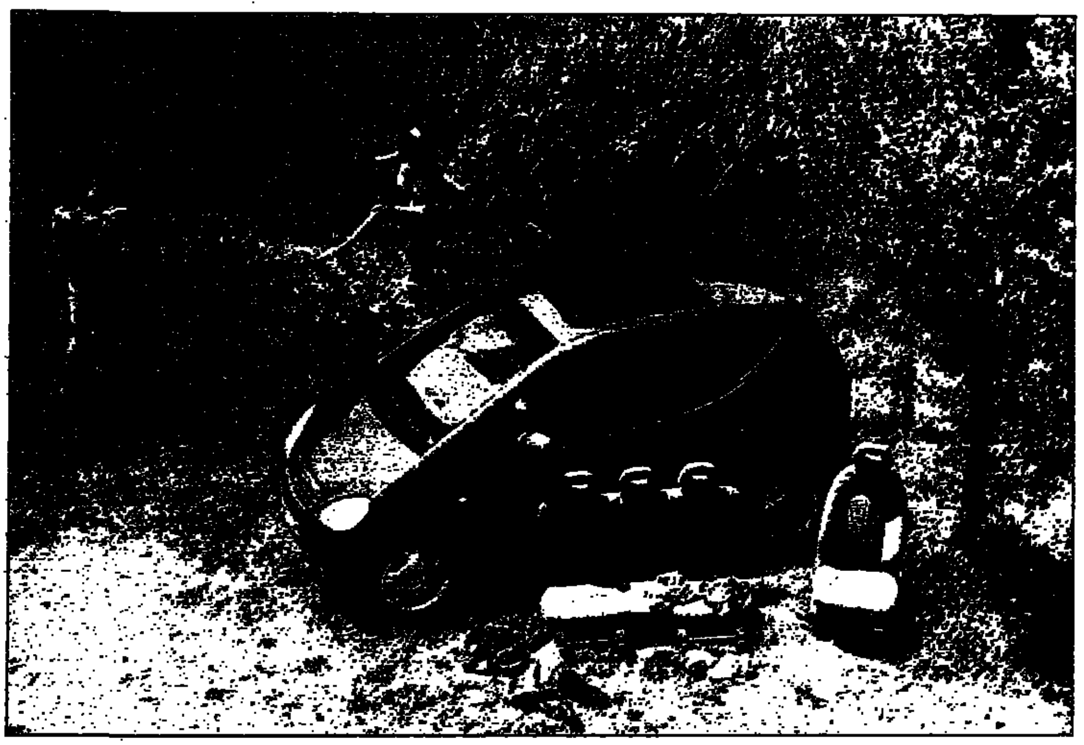
The five-door A-class seats five, and Mercedes claims more than 70 seating permutations, with all but the driver's seat removable, offering a maximum of up to 1,700 litres of space, enough for a couple of bicycles.

Standard equipment includes dual airbags, anti-lock braking, central locking, electric windows and power steering, and Mercedes is also considering whether to lengthen its current warranty to three-years for the A-class. Servicing too will be cheaper, with trips to the garage coming up only every 25,000 miles, cutting maintenance bills by a claimed 30 per cent.

As well as the five-speed manual, there is a clutchless manual, a sort of automatic with a gearstick, which seems a remarkably pointless application of technology. The instinct, as one road tester found, was still to try and use the absent clutch when moving the gearstick, which only resulted in an unwanted emergency stop on the motorway as he hit the brake instead of the non-existent clutch.

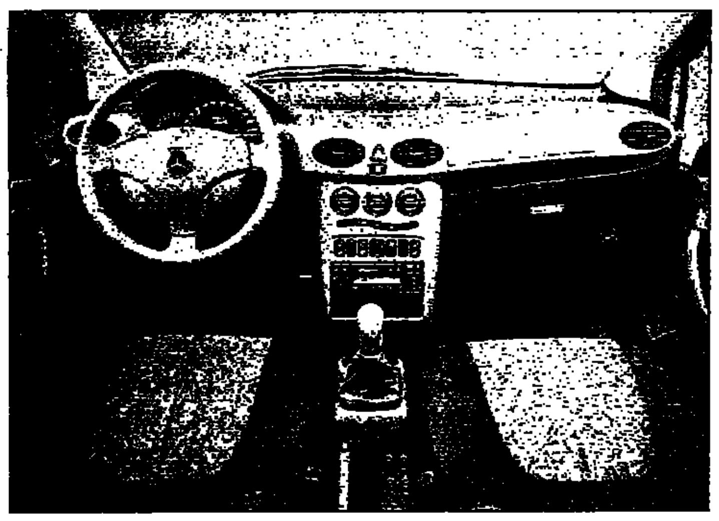
The manual, in contrast, is easy, the clutch light, and even with the 1.4-litre there is plenty of pep, although the fifth gear is a pure fuel-saving overdrive. For motorway overtaking the driver needs to drop down to fourth for meaningful acceleration. The 1.6-litre is excellent in town and on dual carriageways, quiet and responsive, which means a promised more powerful version due in two years should be as much fun again.

Whether the A-class is considered an estate or people mover, hatch or spacious saloon, the German manufacturer is happy to let others decide. Certainly it is an intriguing Jack of all trades. Time will tell whether, like the Mini, it turns out to be a time-defying masterpiece.



Marketed as a modern lifestyle vehicle, the A-class advertising campaign uses sun, sea . . .

. . . and air to suggest an image that echoes the fun of Alec Issigonis's Mini nearly 40 years ago



The feel is of being at the wheel of something much bigger

A-CLASS 160

Engine: 1.6-litre four-cylinder producing 102bhp at 5,250rpm, and driving front wheels through five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: Top speed 113mph, 0-60mph in around 10 seconds.

Economy: Combined cycle 41mpg.

Equipment: Twin and side airbags, anti-lock braking, radio-cassette, central locking. Options include fold-back louvred sunroof and cycle racks.

Price: About £17,000.

Morag Preston visits a car-dealer with a new slant on making the showroom woman-friendly — add a hairdresser

Parked next to the rollers

New Chapters: "In an average week, the hair salon sees 200 people. A lot pop in and look around the showroom"

The whirr of hair-dryers and scent of shampoo is as likely to greet customers at a car dealership in Birmingham as the rumble of engines and smell of petrol.

Bromsgrove-based Clarks Motor Services has opened an ladies' hairdressers in a bid to entice women in. Female professionals are being tempted by the time-saving concept of getting their fuel injection adjusted and their split ends seen to in one go. Buy a car, and you get a free haircut.

With a hairstyle so out of date that a Lada cuts more of a dash, I headed in search of a new look. Sweeping through huge double doors, I caught a sneaky last look at my thatch on the side of a shiny new Corolla. Snaking past tubs of plastic plants and a three-tier fountain, I was led upstairs to the new Chapters salon.

"Hello, my name is Emma, I am your stylist for the day," said my copper-coiffured assistant. Flicking through inspirational pictures, we decided on a hairstyle à la actress Gina Gershon. Massaging Awapuhi shampoo into my hair, Emma Broadhurst told me I had just missed an example of the perfect customer: a no-nonsense businesswoman who had dropped off her car to be serviced, and had her hair cut at the same time. It is women like her Clarks is trying so hard to attract.

According to Martin Stannard, dealer principal: "When we were planning the new site, we decided to lease the mezzanine floor. Rather than go for solicitors or accountants, we thought a hair salon would introduce a complementary clientele to the dealership."

All too aware that car salesmen have long held a reputation for "high-pressure sharp-practice", Mr Stannard wants women to feel more comfortable walking into the showroom. "The biggest problem a dealership has is getting people through the door. A lot of ladies are buying cars, or have the deciding factor, and it is about exposing our products to that audience. In an average week, the hair salon sees 200 people. A lot of ladies pop in and look around the showroom. They sit upstairs and can look down at us without feeling intimidated."

> 'They can sit and look down at the showroom without feeling intimidated'

A wine bar and bistro to be opened next door is the next stage in Mr Stannard's plan to entice new customers into the showroom. Clarks also owns a 17-seater minibus, a fleet of child-sized motorised cars, and a bouncy castle, which it lends to local schools.

"It's another form of advertising, but it benefits the community at the same time," he says.

Steve Evans, a partner at Chapters who is renting the site on a six-year lease, is enjoying the benefits of the cross-marketing ploy. The next development in their relationship is combining databases and sharing staff training. "Clarks approached us because we had outgrown our other salon up the road. In the States, hairdressers are found in more unusual places, so we thought it was a good idea.

"I was worried that not having a shop frontage might be a disadvantage, but the bistro will soon be here and the Bromsgrove Rovers football ground next door is being turned into a supermarket. When we first told people that wew were moving to a car dealership, they said 'You're kidding'. They had the idea that it was all dirt cars and greasy cars, but it's not like that. A couple of people have bought cars on he back of it. One lady wanted to write a cheque right there and then."

As for my hair? Emma daubed it in sculpting foam and doused me in soft spray, but I did not look anything like Gina Gershon. Having been persuaded to test drive rollers in my hair for the first time, I will put it down to experience. My new bouffant was bigger than an over-inflated car tyre, and a side-parting is definitely not for me. I would rather have a Landcruiser any day.

AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE VEHICLE YOU DESIRE CONTACT YOUR AUTHORISED DEALER LISTED BELOW

Alfa Romeo

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Alfa Romeo, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

STAFFORDSHIRE - Platts of Longton Lightwood Rd Longton Stoke on Trent, Staffs, ST3 4JG. Tel: Les Rose on 01782 599400

Aston Martin

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1BA. David Bradshaw 01732 456300

NORWICH - Stratton Motor Company (Norfolk) Ltd Ipswich Rd Long Stratton. Charlie Skelton Tel: 01508 530491

SURREY - H.W.M. LIMITED at New Zealand Avenue, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 1AT. Paul Spires 01932 220404

Audi

LONDON - SCOTTS AUDI 214 Pavillion Road, London SW1X 0AN. Sales Tel 0171 730 2121. Services Tel 0171 730 5464

BMW

HERTFORDSHIRE - Specialist Cars London Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel 01438 760209 Web http://www.specialistcars.co.uk/bmw/

LONDON - MLG of CHISWICK at 492 - 496 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5TT. Please call 0181 995 1683

LONDON - BATES IN LONDON at 289 - 299 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall Bridge, London SE1. 0171 582 8000

MIDDLESEX - Heathrow BMW Ltd Park House, Horton Road, West Drayton, UB7 8JD. Please call 0181 848 8586, 0802 611586

BMW

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - SYTNER DIRECT 165 Huntingdon Street, NG1 3NH. Used Car Manager Mel Smith 0115 924 1144

SURREY - Coombs of Guildford Slyfield Green Estate, Woking Road, Guildford GU1 1RD Freephone 0800 289 485

SURREY - CRONK BMW at Chipstead, Surrey. For Everything BMW Contact Gary Young 01737 556789

Fiat

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

Honda

KENT - WHITEHOUSE HONDA 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent, DA6 7LN. Tel: 0181 303 6363 Fax: 0181 301 5763

Jeep

DORSET - Meridien Majestic Garage Ltd Wallisdown, Bournemouth, BH11 8QS. Contact Kevin Butt 01202 525111

Jaguar

CAMBRIDGESHIRE - Marshall Peterborough Tyrrell Park, Boongate PE1 5PT Alan Wozniak 01733 313336

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Rd. smalljaguar@sevenoaks.lancasterplc.com 01732 456300

LONDON - Simmonds of Mayfair 40 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 6BN Stewart Banks 0171 629 4404. Sun 0468 566672

LONDON - WOODFORD JAGUAR 50 - 56 High Road, Woodford, London, E18 1AS. Steve Russell 0181 989 6844

WEST MIDLANDS - COLLIERS at 166 -168 Birmingham Rd, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1BX Keith Gallagher 0121 355 8181

WEST YORKSHIRE - Farrya Jaguar Northgate, Huddersfield, HD1 6AP. Contact Howard Jessop 01484 481200

WEST YORKSHIRE - Appleyard Jaguar Bradford Northbrook Street, Canal Road, BD1 4RO Mike Smith 01274 394439

Land Rover

LONDON - LANCASTER CITY at: 68 - 70 High Street, Stratford, E15 2NH New and Used Models 0181 522 0023

Lexus

BERKSHIRE - Currie Motors Rose Kiln Lane, Reading. Mike Miller www.lexus.co.uk/curriemotors 01734 788877

LONDON - HASSOP LEXUS 291/295 Willesden Lane, London, NW2 5HY. Call Ferdy Gottschall 0181 459 0005

SHEFFIELD - Mancy's of Sheffield, 260 Penistone Road, Sheffield. Please Contact David Pepper on 01142 856856

Lotus

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Lotus, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead) SL6 0NT. Tel: 01628 605353

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars, Station Road, Hatton, in Derby, Derbyshire, DE65 5EL. Tel: 01283 813893

Mazda

LONDON - CURRIE MOTORS Wimbledon 165 The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19. Please call 0181 543 1131

Mercedes

BERKSHIRE - SUNNINGDALE CARRIAGE COMPANY London Road, Berkshire. Telephone 01344 871200

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes 20-28 London Road, Romford. Tony Covenagn Sales Manager T: 01708 730424/Fax 748886

LONDON: BRADSHAW WEBB LTD Wandsworth Bridge, South London SW18 1TB. Call Mike Hutchinson 0171 493 7705

Maserati

BOURNEMOUTH - MERIDIEN MASERATI, 520 Wallisdown Rd, Wallisdown, Bournemouth, BH11 8QS. 01202 525111.

Mitsubishi

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Mitsubishi, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Mitsubishi Messrs Cirencester Elliot Road, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 1YS. 01285 655780

MOTOR WEY MITSUBISHI Putney London SW15 0181 871 1122. Weybridge, Surrey, 01932 867811. Open 7 Days

Mitsubishi

SOMERSET - Tincknell Mitsubishi Main Road, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LY. John Horgan 01278 652244

SURREY - COURT & SMITH LTD Fishers House, Portsmouth Rd, Ripley, Nr Woking, Surrey. 01483 222184

SURREY - MOTOR WEY MITSUBISHI Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2RW. Please telephone 01932 867811. Open 7 Days

WORCESTERSHIRE - Fields of Bromsgrove Sanders Road, Bromsgrove B61 7DQ. Contact Peter Field on 01527 879877

Morgan

BERKSHIRE - S.G.T Morgan, Station Garage, Station Road, Taplow, (Near Maidenhead). Tel: 01628 605353

SCOTLAND - Thomson & Potter Burrelton, Blairgowrie, Nr Perth Morgan Hire in the Highlands. 01828 670247

Porsche

NORTH EAST - JCT600 Newcastle Silverlink Park, Wallsend, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE28 9ND. Tel: 0191 295 1234

Renault

KENT - WHITEHOUSE RENAULT Lee Terrace, Lewisham, London, SE13 5DL. Tel: 0181 852 4818 Fax: 0181 852 5002

Rolls-Royce

BERKSHIRE - Mead of Burnham 367 Bath Road, Slough Berks SL1 5QA. Contact Peter Ingram 01628 668951

LONDON - Jack Barclay Ltd. Berkeley Square, W1X 6AE. Nine Elms, London SW8 5BA. Tel: 0171 629 7444

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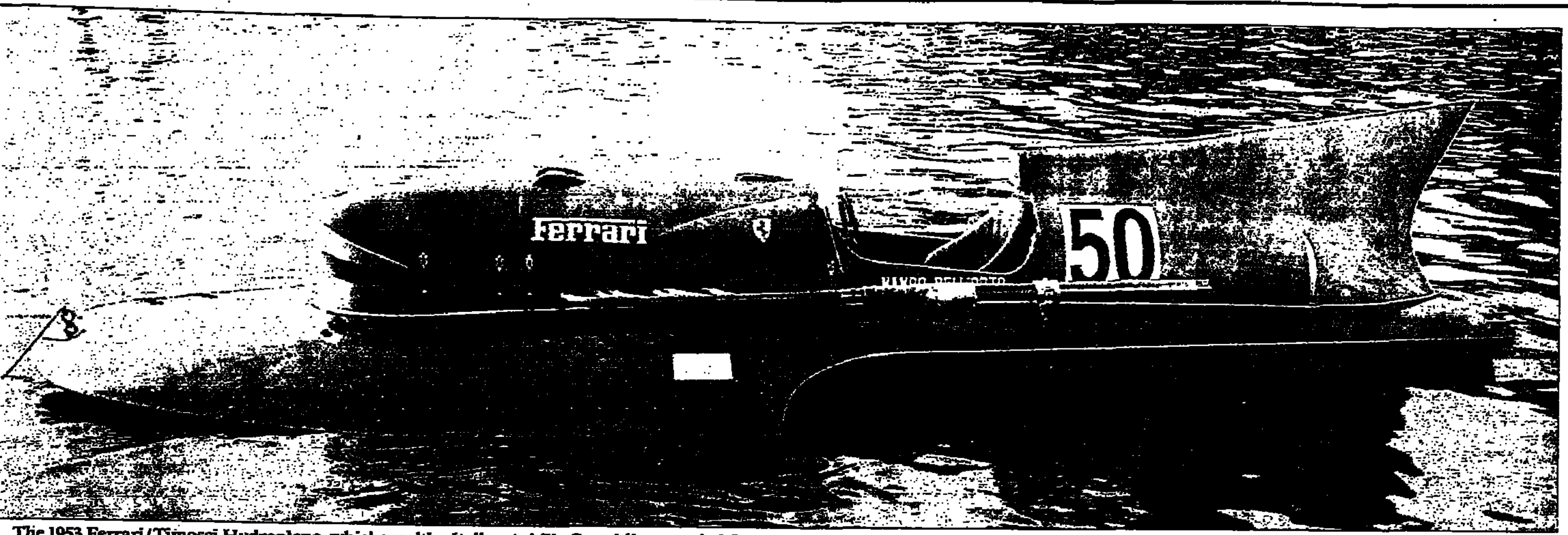


The 1953 Ferrari/Timossi Hydroplane, which wealthy Italian Achille Castoldi persuaded Enzo Ferrari to work on as a challenger for world water speed records. It topped 150mph on Lake Iseo

The Ferrari that made waves

A million-dollar hydroplane and a car stained with murder are part of a £7m auction. Tony Dawe reports

Is it a car, is it a boat . . . is it *really* a Ferrari? The answer to all these questions about the unique, sleek red machine which goes on sale at Silverstone next Saturday is "Yes".

The Ferrari/Timossi Hydroplane was built in 1953 by the famous Italian manufacturer with a supercharged motor racing engine to challenge for world water speed records. It topped 150mph on Lake Iseo in northern Italy, a record for its class, and later reached an unofficial 178mph.

In recent years, the million-dollar machine has graced the Ferrari museum and major motoring events throughout Europe, but on July 26 it will go under the hammer as the star attraction at an auction staged by Coys of Kensington, West London, as part of its international historic festival at Britain's Grand Prix circuit.

It will be joined by more orthodox Ferraris in a sale which is expected to raise £7 million, the largest auction of its type in Britain — and probably Europe — for at least five years.

The sale will also offer cars with an intriguing, romantic and even tragic history, including the HRG Emperor which played a part in the murder of motor racing enthusiast David Blakely and the execution of his killer, Ruth Ellis. In complete contrast, the sale will also offer a 1936 baby Fiat called the Topolino, meaning "little mouse".

The Ferrari Hydroplane was born out of the desire of Achille Castoldi, a wealthy Italian. Through his friendship with racing drivers Luigi Villoresi and Alberto Ascari, Castoldi obtained access to Enzo Ferrari and persuaded him to spend more time and money than he would have wished on converting and supercharging a 4.5-litre V12 engine to fit into a trifoil design called ARNO XI.

"The decision by its private owner to sell this famous machine at auction and the entry in the sale of a rare 1955 Ferrari 857/S, one of the most successful competition cars of all time and another million-dollar vehicle, has encouraged other owners to put fabulous cars into the auction," says Tim Schofield of Coys.

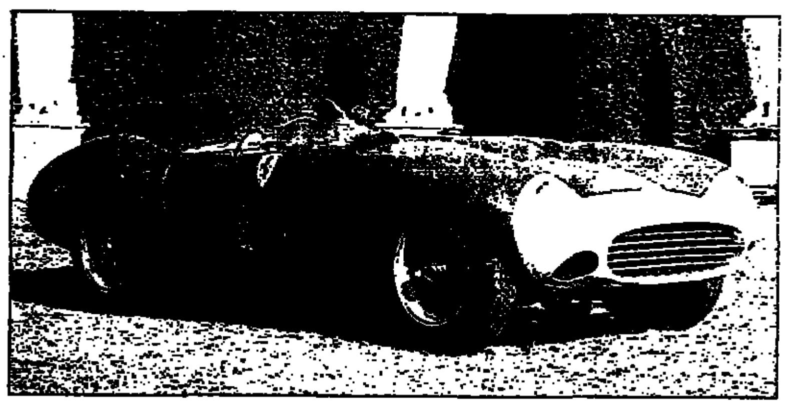
"With Ferrari celebrating its 50th anniverary this year, some collectors have decided this is an ideal time to sell and we will be offering 30 of the marque from a 1953 212 series Cabriolet to a 1990 F40."

The sale has been further boosted by 17 cars from Hans Dürst, the Swiss ice hockey champion who became a wealthy motor dealer. They include a 1972 Lamborghini Miura, one of a handful of cars which can claim to have influenced future design, and a 1957 BMW 507 two-seater roadster, one of the models that helped establish the company as a top manufacturer.

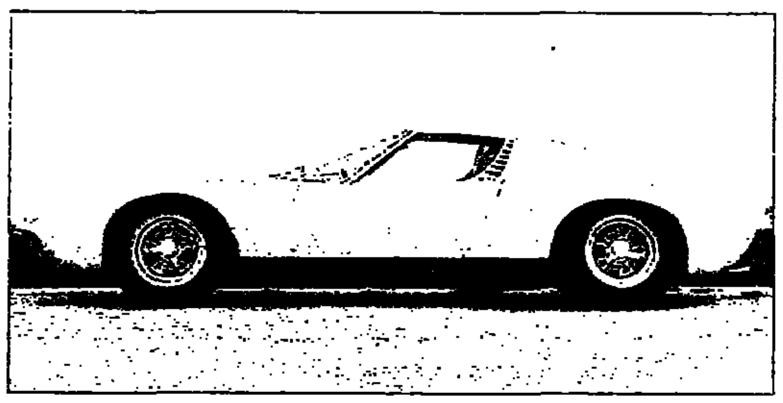
Much attention at the viewings next Thursday, Friday and Saturday will, inevitably, focus on Blakely's dream car which was used in *Dance with a Stranger*, the film about his relationship with Ellis.

The Emperor was built for Blakely by an Aston Martin engineer around a new engine developed by HRG from a twin-cam version of a Singer 1500cc engine. The racing enthusiast had spent much of his inheritance on the car, to the annoyance of Ellis, and this extravagance was one source of increasing tension between the engaged couple.

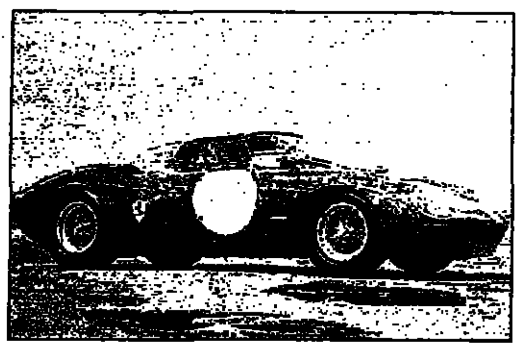
On his debut in the car at the 1954 Boxing Day meeting at Brands Hatch, Blakely finished just behind a Connaught-powered Lotus and in front of the Cooper-Bristol and was looking forward to future victories. Before he could race again, however, Blakely was shot by Ellis.



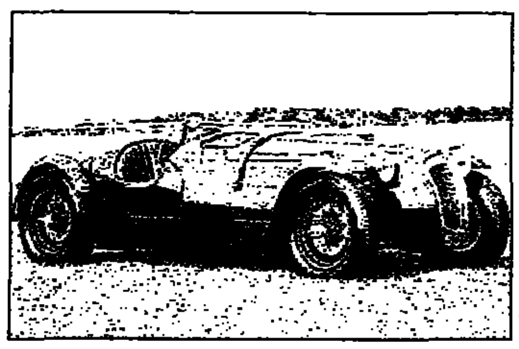
The million-dollar 1955 Ferrari 857/S, which won five times in nine starts



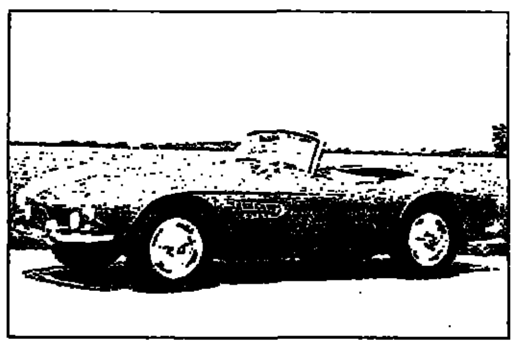
The 1972 Lamborghini Miura from the Hans Dürst collection



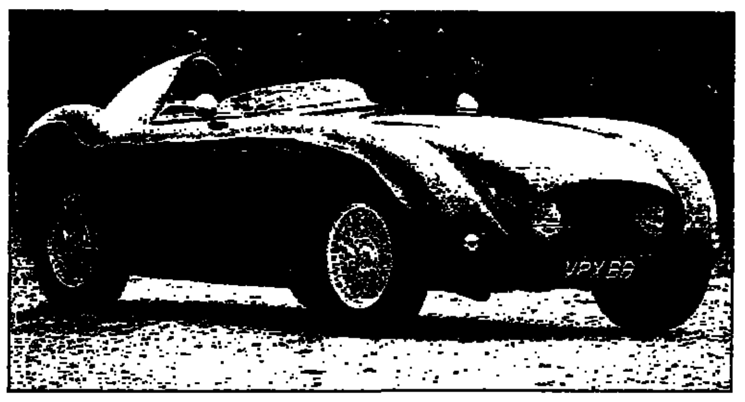
A 1964 Ferrari 250 Le Mans, one of only 32 built



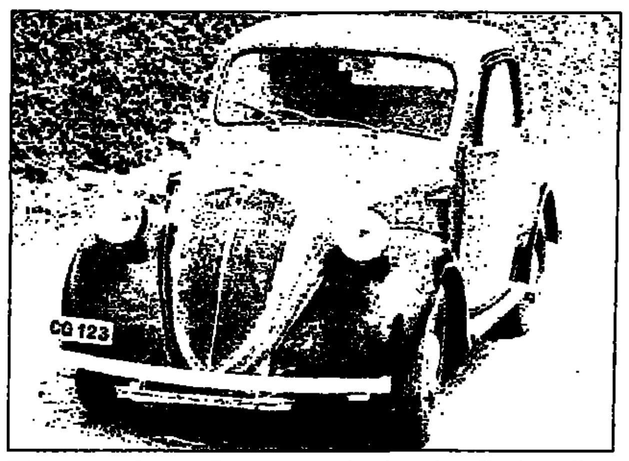
A Frazer Nash Continental V8 Le Mans Replica



A 1957 BMW 507, also from the Dürst collection



Rupert Everett and Miranda Richardson as David Blakely and Ruth Ellis in *Dance with a Stranger*, the film that also featured the HRG Emperor (right) which caused increasing tension between the ill-fated couple



The extremely rare first-year production 1936 Fiat Topolino

Legends racing out of history

The Coys International Historic Festival is the best chance in Britain to see legendary cars racing against each other on a grand prix circuit, *writes Alan Copps.*

Although much of the machinery on show is priceless, the racing is in real earnest and provides a spectacle quite unlike last week's modern grand prix. If you want to see some serious power sliding it's an unbeatable opportunity. Ferrari is the featured marque but there will be historic cars from every era.

Presented this year by Chrysler, the line-up of drivers includes three Ferrari world champions, Phil Hill, John Surtees and Jody Scheckter. But perhaps the most significant tribute to the Italian factory that celebrates its 50th anniversary this year is the return to Silverstone of Froilan Gonzalez, the great Argentinian driver nicknamed "the Bull of the Pampas" because of his bulky physique and dashing style.

His victory in the British Grand Prix in 1951 in a 4½-litre Ferrari was the marque's first World Championship win and signalled the end of an era dominated by supercharged cars such as the Alfa Romeos. He grew to regard the UK circuit as his favourite and won the grand prix there again for Ferrari in 1954.

Also driving in a three-day programme will be Stirling Moss, Tony Brooks, Roy Salvadori, Cliff Allison and Paul Frere. Clay Regazzoni, the swashbuckling Swiss driver who won five grands prix in a 12-year career before suffering severe spinal injuries in a crash in 1980, will be driving demonstration laps in one of his specially adapted hand-controlled Ferraris.

Another unique sight will be no fewer than 25 of the stunningly beautiful Ferrari GTOs which dominated GT racing in the 1960s. Only 37 of these cars were built and many of those present will be among more than 100 Ferraris taking part in the racing. Others include a 1953 375 Mille Miglia once driven by Fangio, the Super Squalo driven by Paul Frere to fourth place in the 1955 Belgian Grand Prix, the Formula One Dino 246 driven by Mike Hawthorn in his championship winning 1958 season and the 312T2 Formula One car driven by Regazzoni, Niki Lauda and Carlos Reutemann in 1976.

Tickets now only available from Silverstone on the day.

His Majesty went that way

King Alfonso's means of escape from angry husbands tops the bill in a veteran and classic collection sale

King Alfonso XIII of Spain is rumoured to have used the remarkable performance of the Hispano-Suiza 15T to out-distance many an irate and jealous husband. On Friday a perfect restoration of the 1912 model will be pursued with equal eagerness by car enthusiasts when it tops the bill at a veteran and classic car sale, *Tony Dawe writes.*

The car, designed by the Swiss engineer Marc Birkigt, cost £50,000 to restore and is expected to fetch twice that amount at the Brooks auction at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu.

It is described as "a short-chassis 3.6-litre, three-to-four seater sports torpedo" and carries the name Alfonso XIII because of the Spanish monarch's support for the model.

The 15T's remarkable achievements included lapping Brooklands at 81.51mph in 1914 and claiming first place in the tourist class at the Gaillon hill climb, a 1-in-10 gradient, at an average speed of 54mph.

Brooks claims that the restored Hispano-Suiza lives up to the claim in the company's original catalogue that "the facility of manipulation, the quick response and great force of the motor render our various models extremely easy to drive at all speeds and make them cars *par excellence* for touring and for sport."

Almost as striking when the auction opens for viewing next Thursday will be a royal blue 1927 Daimler. With its long bonnet, protruding rounded boot and spare wheel mounted on the running board, the car would look perfectly at home in *Bonnie and Clyde* but its coachwork was given the very respectable name of "Doctor's Coupé" in the 1920s.

It is comprehensively equipped with nickel electric lighting, windscreen-mounted swivel spotlight, wooden lathed petrol tank, opening windscreen and carriage-style loop door handles. Its basic price in 1927 was £490; on Friday it is expected to fetch between £9,000 and £12,000.

Honours for style may be taken by a slightly more modern but even rarer model: one of only two V12 Atalantas believed to have survived. The marque was the brainchild of A.C. Bertelli of Aston Martin and Alfred Gough, designer of the overhead camshaft Frazer Nash engine.

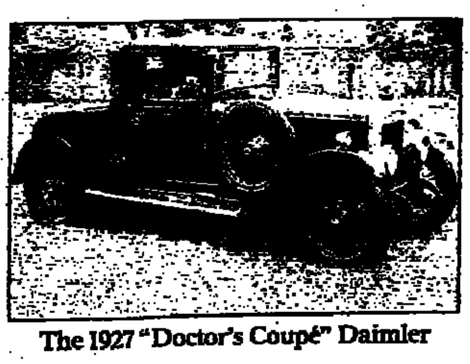
Founded in 1937, Atalanta Motors of Staines specialised in hand-built sports cars of advanced design, but production failed to recommence after the Second World War.

The 1939 drophead coupé featured in the sale was restored between 1988 and 1994 and finished in pale blue over dark blue with dark blue leather interior and is expected to fetch around £35,000.

Among the sports cars on offer is an historic ex-works 2.6-litre Aston Martin DB2, driven in the 1950s by Reg Parnell. In his hands, the touring coupé made successful appearances in the 1952 Mille Miglia, the Prix de Berne and the Shelsley Walsh hill climb. Angela Brown, daughter of David, who owned Aston Martin, won a Silverstone race in the car before it was sent to Australia.

An earlier and equally desirable racer in the sale is a 1927 Vauxhall 30/98. A previous version had become the first production sports car to lap Brooklands at more than 100mph in March 1923. The model on offer carries the sporting Velox four-seat tourer body and went to South Africa in the 1930s, returning to Britain in 1991.

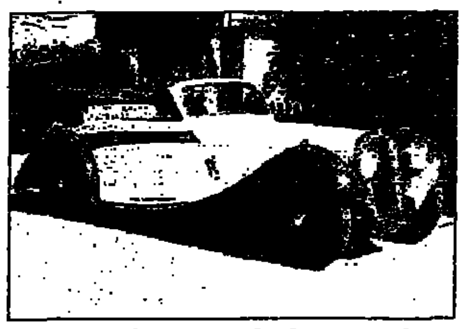
One of the outstanding aspects of the sale is a group of handsome Edwardian cars from the estate of the late Clive Unsworth, including some of the earliest and finest examples of Cadillac, Pierce-Arrow, Renault and Crossley, dating from 1911 to 1920.



The 1927 "Doctor's Coupé" Daimler

Alfonso XIII's 1912 Hispano-Suiza 15T

The historic 2.6-litre Aston Martin DB2



The V12 Atalanta, one of only two survivors

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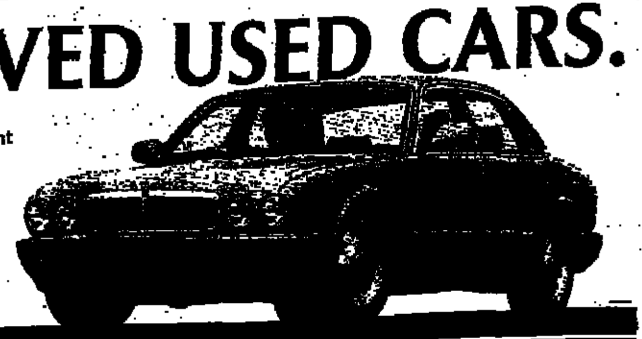

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CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

FORECOURT

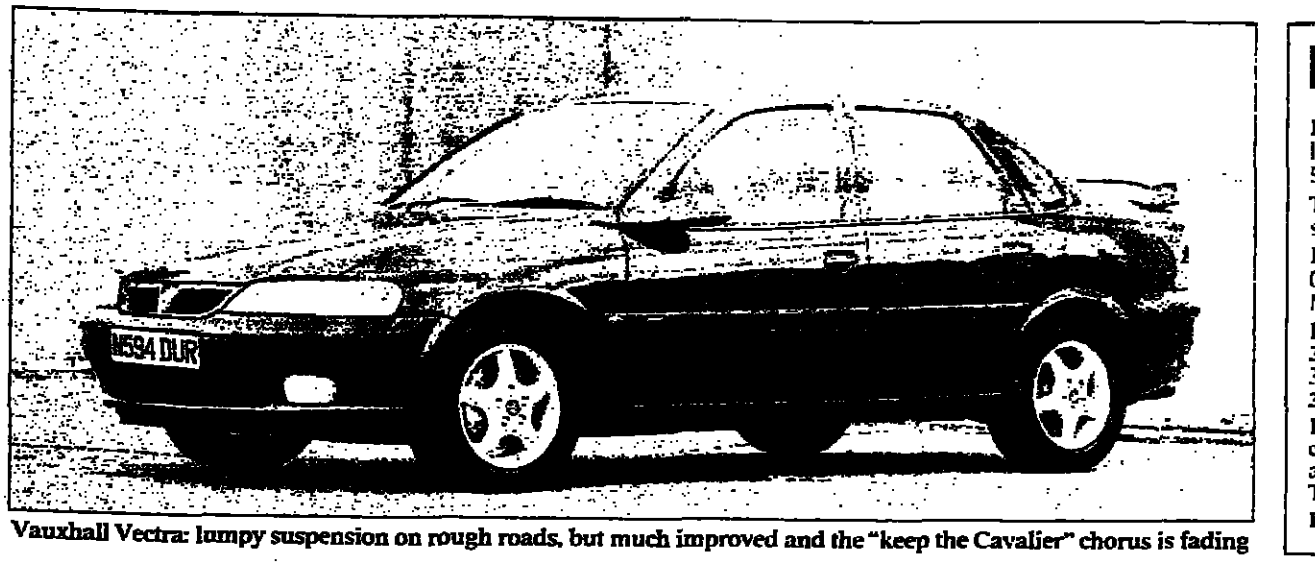
■ BEFORE Rover met and married BMW, the UK firm had a long flirtation with Honda, out of which was born the Civic and its close relative, the latest Rover 400, *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

The British-built Civic, launched in 1995, is the sort of car that proves newest is not necessarily best when it comes to investing in motoring.

A used but still far-from-old Civic 1.4-litre five-door Electric Pack, is as rock solid as an investment as it is durable as a form of transport, reports *CAP Black Book.* The car gives enough performance, but not too much, is adequately equipped and the design, both inside and out, is perfectly acceptable.

This is the ultimate car for the motorist who is interested primarily in a vehicle that is comfortable, drives well, is excellently put together and which when the time comes to sell or part-exchange will still be worth something.

If you want a car that will turn from Jekyll to Hyde when you are away from the family and not on a school run, the Civic most certainly is not it. However, if you want high quality work inside the cabin, a lack of weird and wacky design, no tack and a functional, dashboard layout, then the Civic is for you. M and N registered cars are best value, and expect to pay between £8,500 and £8,995 for a 1.4 five-door Electric Pack with low mileage.


Vauxhall Vectra: lumpy suspension on rough roads, but much improved and the "keep the Cavalier" chorus is fading

Middleweight contender

ROAD TEST

The Vauxhall Vectra grows on you. It needs to because it has to fight a tough corner in what is probably the most competitive part of the new car market, *Alan Copps writes.*

Introduced nearly two years ago to replace the Cavalier, there is no doubt that it is a good car and in the past year has enjoyed sales success, largely through fleet orders on which this sector of the market depends so heavily.

It's latest powerful SRi version with a 2.5-litre V6 engine offers impressive sporty performance and handling as well as all the equipment that any motorway-pounding company car driver would regard as essential. It gets from 0-62 in eight seconds and on to a claimed 143mph maximum. But more important is the mid-range acceleration allied to precise steering, an ideal combination for overtaking at speed. Developed with the help of Lotus engineers, it's a convincing flagship for a range that has been steadily improved since launch.

But it still suffers two drawbacks: the hatchback version feels cramped in the back seats, which lack sufficient headroom for taller passengers, and the suspension, although much improved, gives a lumpy ride on rough roads transmitting too much of the surface to the driver. This deterioration in ride comfort is often the trade-off when sporty versions are created of cars that begin life as saloons or hatchbacks. It's probably not that important to a driver who buys simply for the "sporty feel", but it makes an uneasy compromise in a family car.

That said, the Vectra is a much-improved car. The whole range has anti-lock braking and the option of air-conditioning — a "must" for more and more long-distance drivers — extends right down to the lowest model. The top models, GLS, SRi and CDX also come with Trafficmaster, the handy motorway-jam-busting gadget as standard.

Vauxhall was the first manufacturer to fit this as standard equipment and it can be a valuable time-saver. It works from a network of 2,500 sensors which signal traffic conditions and a voice warning automatically interrupts radio, cassette or CD if any problems loom up to 10 miles or two motorway junctions ahead.

These constant improvements were needed in a car that had a difficult start in life: pitched into head-on competition with the much-praised Ford Mondeo and immediately challenged by the class-leading Peugeot 406, other contenders, such as the impressive Nissan Primera, have come along since.

It's tough turf to fight over. But as Vauxhall's engineers go on tweaking the Vectra, the gloomy sentimental chorus of the "keep the Cavalier" crowd now seems a distant echo.

VECTRA SRi V6

Engine: 24-valve, 2.5-litre V6 giving 168bhp at 5,800rpm

Transmission: Five-speed manual

Performance: 0-62mph in eight secs. Max speed 143mph.

Economy: Urban 20mpg; extra urban 36.2mpg; combined 28.0mpg.

Equipment: Remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser. Traction control.

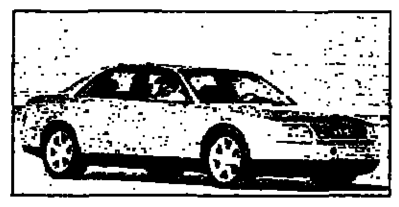
Price: £18,195.

SPARE PARTS

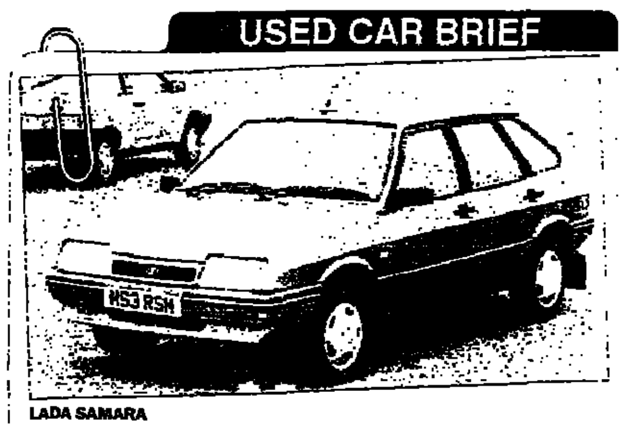
■ PIAGGIO, creator of the Vespa, is offering free insurance on two new 50cc scooters in showrooms this month. The Piaggio NRG (below) has 13in wheels, twin headlamps, rear spoiler and low profile tyres for £1,999, while the Zip SP has been enhancing its reputation on the racetrack in a one make series. The Zip, with its liquid-cooled 50cc power plant, is in the showroom at £1,699. Both scooters have the "twist and go" automatic gearbox which is encouraging more commuters and weekend bikers to try out the two-wheeled option.

■ SAAB is trying to break the strangehold of the German carmakers on the middle executive market by offering free servicing to buyers using the company's Option Plan finance scheme. The deal is worth up to £400 and is open to customers not exceeding 14,000 miles a year. Saabs up to 18 months old on the Premium Approved Used Scheme can also qualify providing they had a recorded mileage lower than 30,000 miles at time of purchase.

■ BIG and blistering, the new Audi S8 goes on sale next month at a price of £60,929 (£61,544 on the road). The range-topper (above) promises to ally super-luxury with super-performance, underlining Audi's re-emergence of recent years. An uprated 4.2-litre engine delivers 340 brake horse power through an automatic five-speed gearbox, though all cars get the Tiptronic sequential manual system too. That is good enough for a 0-60mph take-off time of 5.5 seconds and an electronically-limited maximum of 155mph. Inside, there is a satellite navigation system, on-board computer and electric everything ... including a few electric things you have never even thought of yet.



USED CAR BRIEF



LADA SAMARA

The recent news that Ladas would no longer be imported into Britain sparked unlikely reports of motorists clamouring to buy one of the last cars available. The Samara was the "modern" Lada launched in 1987 with 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engines, as a three and five-door hatch and, from 1992, as a four-door saloon.

✓ **GOOD NEWS:** The best news is that the Samara is a remarkable improvement over the Lada Riva that dated from the 60s. Unfortunately in technology terms the Riva was a pretty low base to start improving from. Solid, if not well built, Samara performance and handling are OK. Best news is that a Samara means cheap motoring.

LOOK FOR: The 1.3 (65bhp) and 1.5 (75bhp) litre cars are the ones to go for, and the estate versions in particular have developed an enthusiastic following among those looking for rough and ready load carriers. Check the car has not been clocked. Cheats can make money "clocking" Ladas just as on any other car.

△ **SAFETY:** Given an average rating by the latest Department of Transport Choosing Safety assessment, the Samara is rated alongside the Mazda 323, Peugeot 305 and Rover Maestro, ahead of the 1980s Escort and Rover 200, but not as good as the Peugeot 306 or 1990s Escort.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices including VAT from Glassmatix *Tel: 01932 828823*): Clutch assembly £100; full exhaust £138; front brake pads (axle set) £20; rear shock absorber £54; alternator £121; starter motor £129; radiator £186.

⊘ **BAD NEWS:** Despite front-wheel-drive and fully independent suspension, the Samara feels basic and functional. Lada designers were clearly Spartans who did not believe in the sort of creature comforts long enjoyed by Ford, Honda and Vauxhall drivers.

AVOID: Early cars (pre 1990) are even more likely to suffer from build quality problems than their more modern counterparts. The 1100cc 52bhp cars are fairly feeble and asthmatic, and just do not have the power to keep the car moving without a lot of effort. Cars over 60,000 miles should be shunned to avoid losing money and to escape unhappy driving.

INSURANCE: Cover from *AA Insurance (0800 444777)* on a 1.5-litre 1995 M-reg Lada Samara GSX five-door hatchback saloon costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £152 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £648 and a similar female pays £562.

£ **PRICES:** Expect to pay £1,250 for a 1991 H-reg Samara 1100 Select three-door hatch, £1,700 for a 1992 J-reg 1300 three-door, £2,400 for a 1993 L-reg 1300 L four-door saloon, £3,000 for a 1994 M-reg 1300 L five-door, £3,000 for a 1994 M-reg 1500 E five-door, £3,200 for a 1996 N-reg 1.1 three-door and £5,000 for a 1996 N-reg GSX four-door.

OVERALL: Check for suspension that has given up suspending and look too for excessive wear on front tyres. There is room for five inside, and comfort levels are all right if not pampering. If a Samara has been properly looked after it will continue to provide cheap, basic A to B transport.

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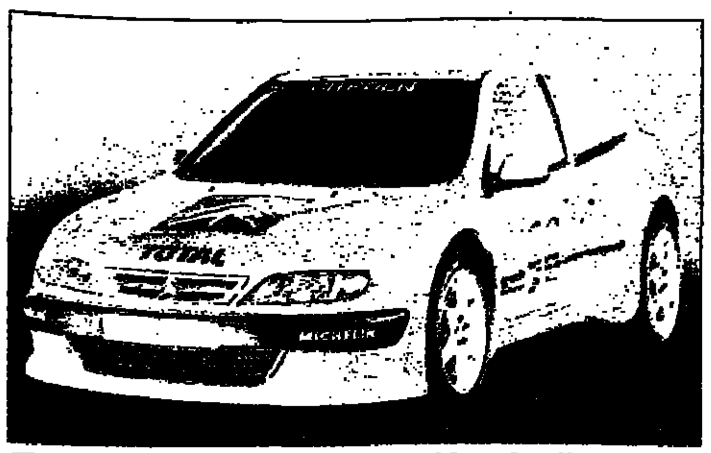
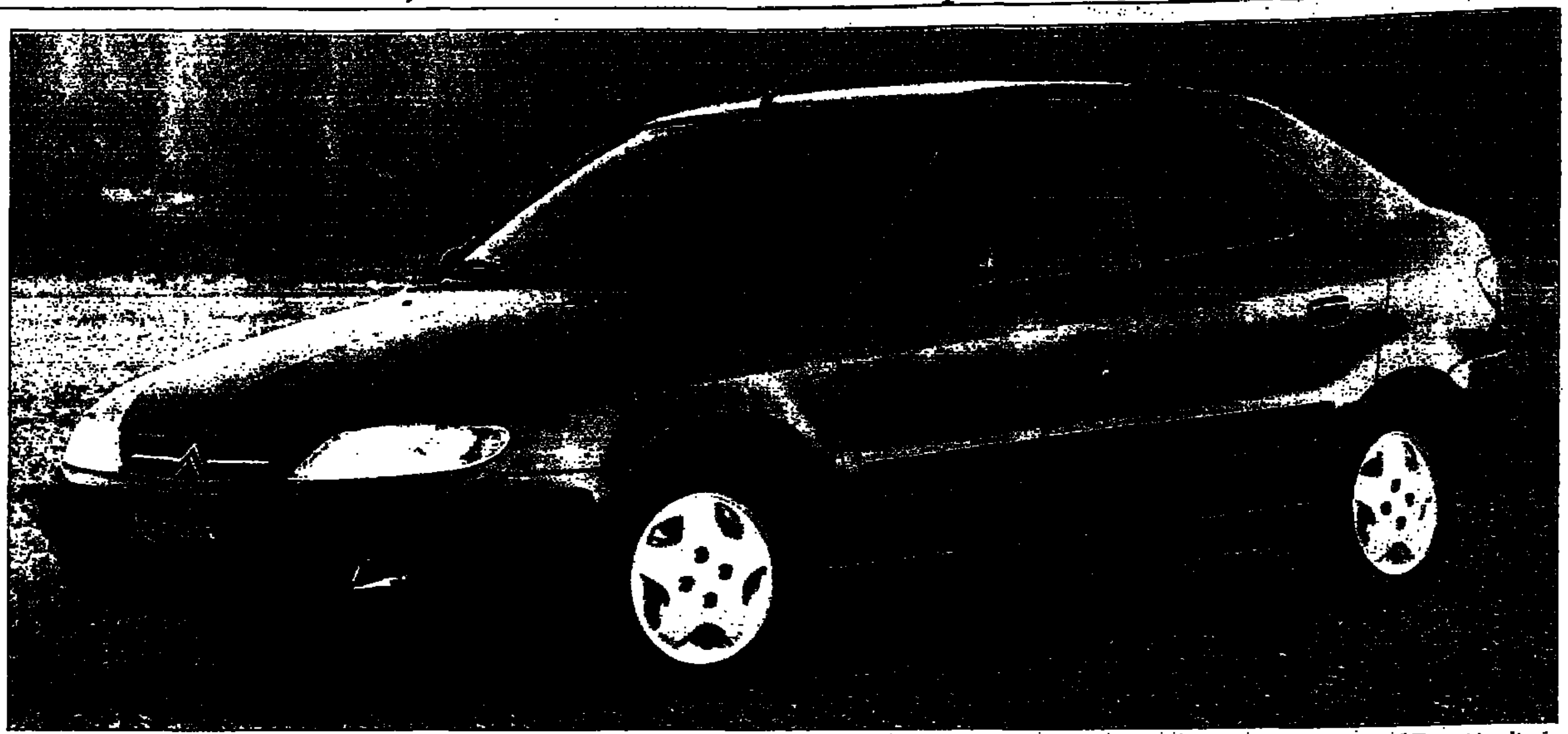
Despite the marketing hype and £500m investment, **Kevin Eason** is less than impressed by the Citroën Xsara



The Xsara sports version being developed from the VTS 16V coupé



Quirky is out, conformity is in: Citroëns used to be pretty, but it has been decreed that they must not step out of the Euro-line if they are to muscle into Ford Escort territory

Euro-bland however you pronounce it

It's all right for you lot out there: I have to read the worst of this tosh and then do a translation before it gets to your newspaper. Do marketing men believe any of this drivel they pump at poor, hapless little chaps like me? Do they ever analyse publicity blurbs so outrageously daft that even someone even as terminally gullible as me can see straight through them?

Take this paragraph, straight from the press release for a new car to our showrooms in November, and try to guess what it means: this car is "both classic and modern, luxurious but fluid". Eh? Anyway, it apparently also has "pure and sober external styling" which "reflects the central theme of elegance. The combination of a plunging nose and a more compact rear give [the car] the looks of a sparky thoroughbred. The muscled short rear suggests latent power."

With those inspiring words chiming in my addled brain, I walked all around this car; I peered inside. I looked in the boot. I even had a look underneath — but it still looked like a Citroën to me. Not even a very interesting Citroën.

Then there was the reasoning behind the name for the replacement for the ZX: Xsara. Handy hint from Citroën here; it is pronounced Zara — captures the imagination apparently, implying French taste and high standing. Or look at it another way. Xsara is the latest batty name to follow the Xantia and the Paxo, sorry Saxo.

Ignore the hyperbole because this new Citroën frankly looks much like the others. I sometimes wonder what the designers get up to for the four years it takes to put together an all-new car like the Xsara. I can only assume that Art Blakeslee, Citroën's genial American design chief, starts off with something radical which committee upon committee gradually whittle down to the same Euro-bland we see from every manufacturer.

Citroëns used to be quirky, they used to be pretty — all swooping noses and bodywork like a missile. They stood out from the crowd. But they didn't hang together too well, always a disincentive when you are looking for big sales — and Citroën wants to shift 300,000 Xsaras a year, with around two-thirds for export. So the PSA Peugeot-Citroën conglomerate of soon-to-retire boss Jacques Calvet decreed that Citroën must not step out of the Euro-line if it was to muscle into Ford Escort territory: quirky is out, conformity is in.

The PR boys might be sending a different message in the press release, but truth is that when you see the Xsara (pronounced Zara) you will decide it looks like a Xantia (pronounced Zantia) squashed shorter. Nothing radical here it seems for an investment close to £500 million.

To be fair, the Xsara looks pleasantly not bad, quite nice-ish. Er, that's it. The seven engines — five petrol from 1.4 to 2-litre, two 1.9 diesels, one turbo-charged — are carried over from ZX and most of the features, switchgear and trims are all recognisably Citroën.

Detailing is clever with lots of storage space and Citroën introduces a height and reach adjustable steering column for a more relaxed driving position. Hi-fi controls come on to the steering wheel and the interior does live up to Citroën's claim to be the roomiest in its class, with a big boot and bags of legroom. Citroën has concentrated hard on the sort of big-car features normally missing in this class: open the door and it clicks through three positions so you don't throw the door open in a car park and whack the car next door.

Citroën says safety has been improved with doors which have an extra lower connecting point to resist frontal impacts. Side airbags will also be available. And Citroën kicks into touch its keypad security system, which needed the driver to punch in a code before turning the ignition. The Xsara gets a security system activated by a simple, two-button remote transponder key.

Alongside the hatchbacks comes a coupé, which will also be available as a roaring 2-litre, 167 brake horse power sportster, badged VTS, with a 0-62mph time of 8.7 seconds and top speed of 124mph. The rest of the range is slightly more staid: the 75bhp 1.4 swaps speed (0-62 in 14.1 seconds, top 109mph) for frugality, offering an average 39mpg, while the non-turbo diesel's 44mpg is positively miserly.

So Xsara joins the UK market high on equipment and detail, with proven engines and potentially good reliability levels, even if does not look much different to the competition. No prices announced yet, but Xsara will be competitive probably starting around £11,000, to punch a hole in a segment of the market for small-ish cars which claims around a third of all sales.

Meanwhile, as you save up pound coins until November, feast your eyes on the classsic and modern, luxurious but fluid style of the new Xsara (pronounced Zara) and if you find out what it all means, let me know.

CITROEN XSARA

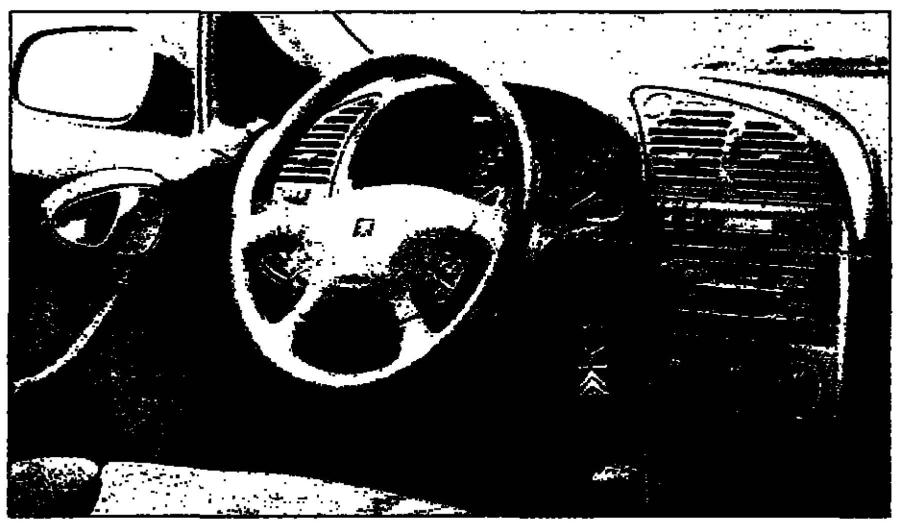
Engines: Four-cylinder 1.4-litre — 2-litre petrol plus 1.9-litre diesel and turbodiesel. 1.4 gives 75bhp, 2-litre 167bhp and 1.9TD 90bhp.

Performance: 1.4-litre: 0-62mph in 14.1 secs, 110mph. 2-litre: 8.7 secs, 138mph. 1.9TD: 12.8 secs, 111mph.

Economy: (combined cycle) 1.4-litre: 39.2mpg; 2-litre 30mpg; 1.9TD 42.8mpg

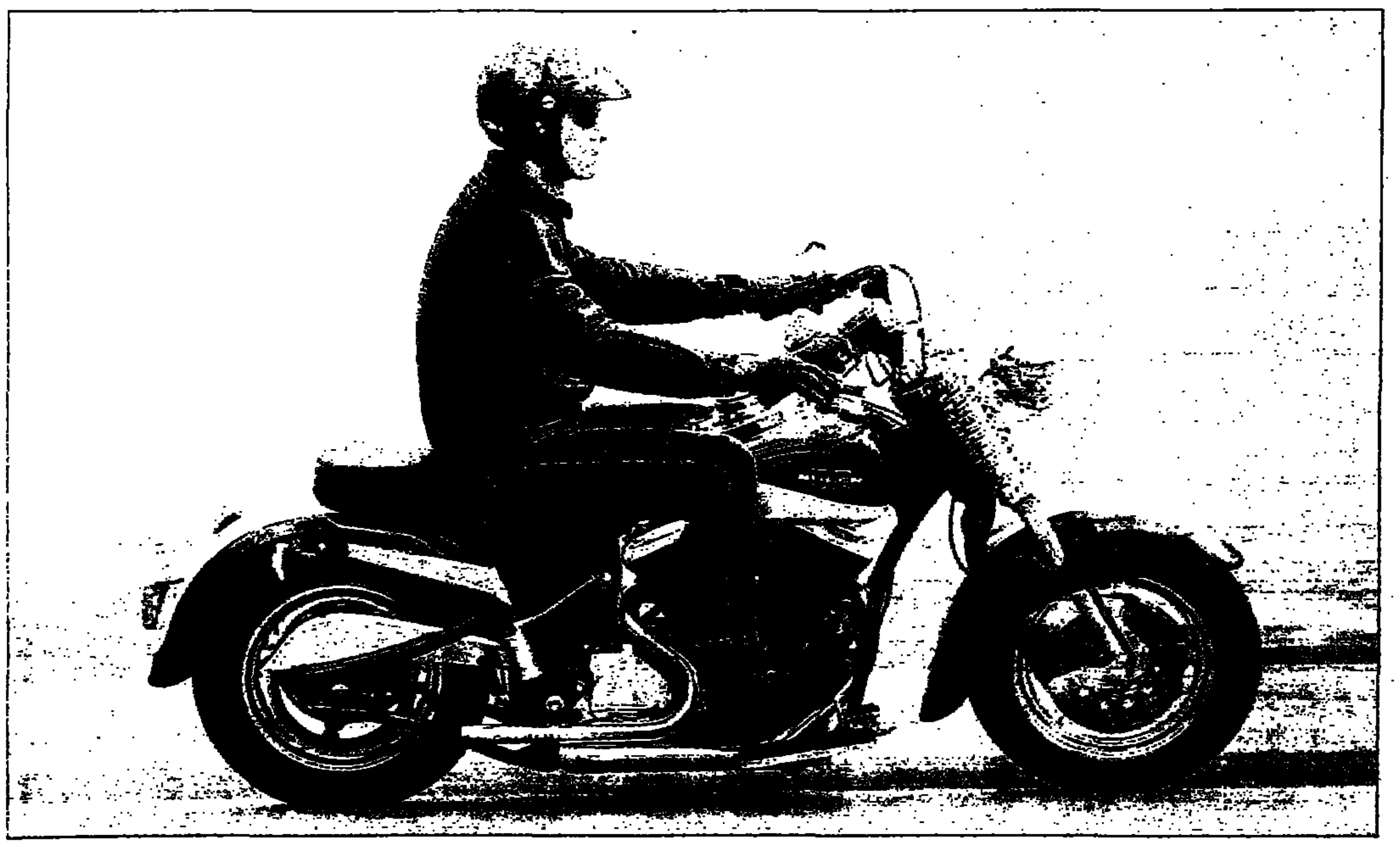
Features: Child-lock warning, audio controls on steering wheels.

Prices: From £11,000.



At least the Xsara's interior detailing is clever and Citroën introduces a height and reach adjustable steering column

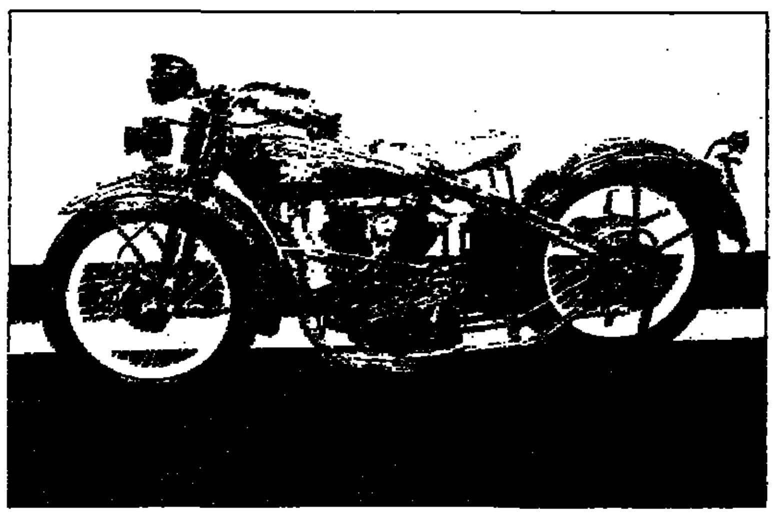
GOLD & GOOSE



Long, low, heavy and softly-sprung, the Excelsior had plenty of low-rev torque, and responded to a crack of the throttle with thrilling acceleration

Roaring out of the Twenties

Excelsior-Henderson? Who they? A reborn American rival for Harley-Davidson, reports **Roland Brown**



David and Dan Hanlon — above with David's wife, Jennie, another director of the company — got their timing and approach right and have won funding for a $30 million factory in Minnesota

Mention the name Excelsior-Henderson to the average motorcyclist today, and the chances are that they won't know what you are talking about. Repeat those words in a few years' time, and you might be offered a ride on the big V-twin cruiser of that name parked in the same rider's garage.

Excelsior-Henderson, one of the "Big Three" American bike manufacturers in the 1920s, is on the way back. Late next year, a 1,386cc heavyweight cruiser called the Super X is due to begin rolling off the production line of a new Excelsior-Henderson factory in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. A legend whose last model was introduced more than 60 years ago will be back on the road.

It was only a matter of time. Such has been the recent success of Harley-Davidson — the Milwaukee firm's sales are soaring; turnover exceeds $1 billion — that entrepreneurs were bound to try and take a piece of the pie. The most likely revival was that of Indian, which built V-twins until 1953 and is the most famous of the fallen American marques. But although several individuals claimed ownership of the trademark, and outlined plans for impressive new bikes, none could raise the necessary finance. The Indian trail went cold.

Excelsior-Henderson is less well-known than Indian, but that was not the case in the 1920s, when the firm's Excelsior V-twins and Henderson fours were built at Chicago in the world's largest motorcycle factory. Fast and luxurious, they were ridden by Hollywood stars and celebrities including Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford. But America's Depression, plus the falling cost of cars, led to the factory's closure in 1931.

The Excelsior-Henderson name remained unused until 1992. Then, brothers David and Dan Hanlon acquired rights to Excelsior-Henderson, quit their jobs and set about raising some money. The brothers, both in their forties, shared a passion for bikes — and, more importantly, each had a successful background in business

By the summer of 1995 the Hanlons had raised $3.5 million of private backing, employed several people in their headquarters at Minneapolis and had begun work on the first Super X prototype. "The investment required is $20-30 million, so we need a serious backer," admitted David Hanlon. "But if we don't find the money immediately, we'll do what every company from Harley-Davidson to General Motors has done — keep trying."

The Hanlons' timing was right, as was their approach. Last August, Excelsior-Henderson was awarded $15m of local funding towards a $30m factory at Belle Plaine, Minnesota, near the farm where the brothers grew up. In September, Excelsior announced that a further $11.5m had been raised by selling stock in the company.

There is now little doubt that Excelsior-Henderson will soon be building bikes again, following in the tyre tracks of Triumph, the Leicestershire firm whose rebirth is the only recent motorcycling event of similar importance. Six years after launching its first bikes, Triumph is now an established manufacturer with an annual output of over 15,000 units. Excelsior-Henderson, which aims to build 4,000 bikes in 1998, intends to have 450 employees producing 20,000 machines five years later.

Linking the two firms is British engineer Allan Hurd, a key figure in establishing Triumph's factory at Hinckley and who now faces a similar task at Excelsior-Henderson, having left Leicestershire to set up and run the Minnesota plant. "It was a big step, but life's all about challenges and this project was very exciting," he says.

The firm's first model shares its Super X name with the old Excelsior company's best-known bike. Its format blends traditional American styling and features — high handlebars, footboards, big mudguards and a large-capacity V-twin engine — with modern engineering. The 1386 cc motor is cooled by air and oil and features four-valve cylinder heads, twin overhead camshafts and a power output of about 80bhp — considerably more than any standard Harley.

My short ride on a prototype did not allow firm conclusions, but was enough to give the impression that the Super X will have much to offer riders looking for an American-style cruiser. The Excelsior is long, low, heavy and softly-sprung; built for relaxed and comfortable travel at a pace well below its likely 120mph top speed. The fuel-injected motor had plenty of low-rev torque, and responded to a crack of the throttle with thrilling acceleration.

It remains to be seen how the American public will respond to the Super X, which will cost about $20,000 (£12,500) — competitive with a top-of-the-range Harley — when it goes on sale across America. (Exports are scheduled for one or two years later.) But for Excelsior-Henderson, the signs are good. It looks as though Harley-Davidson will soon have some serious American competition once again.

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95 N	E320 Coupe Tourmaline/Mush Lthr, Auto, EW, AC	23T	£39,950
95 N	SL320 Mille Mig Silver/Red Leather, Rear Seat, CC	16T	£58,950
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96 P	C180 Elegance Green Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, AC	13T	£22,650
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96 P	C200 Elegance Green Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, AC	12T	£24,450
96 P	C200 Elegance Onyx Grey/Black Cloth, Auto, AC	13T	£24,750
96 P	C200T Elegance Green Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, AC	13T	£26,950
96 N	C250D Elegance Ruby Red/Black Cloth, Manual	9T	£22,950
95 M	C36 Sport Silver/Black Cloth, Auto, Air Conditioning	32T	£38,950
95 N	E200 SE Blue Black/Grey Cloth, Automatic	24T	£19,950
96 N	E200 Avantgarde Azurite Blue/Grey-Blk Cloth, Auto	6T	£28,950
97 P	E200 Elegance Azurite Blue/Grey Cloth, Auto	6T	£28,950
94 L	E220T (124) Nautic Blue/Grey Cloth, Auto, R/Seat	49T	£22,950
96 N	E230 Elegance Ruby Red/Grey Cloth, Automatic	12T	£30,950
96 P	E230 Elegance Onyx Grey/Black Cloth, Auto, AC	14T	£31,950
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96 P	E280 Avantgarde Azurite Blue/Black Cloth, Auto	10T	£34,850
94 M	E320T Almandine/Mushroom Leather, Auto	25T	£35,250
95 M	SL280 Silver/Grey Leather, R/Seat, Climate Control	11T	£52,250
91 H	300SL-24v Silver/Black Lthr, Climate Control	41T	£40,950
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91J	230E Auto met, esr, ew, r/sl	51T	£15,995
97P	C230 Elegance Auto met, esr, r/sl, srs	10T	£26,995
97P	C230 Sport Komp met, hide, air, eds, cd	5T	£32,995
97P	C250D Elegance Auto met, r/sl	2T	£26,995
97P	E230 Classic Auto c/c, far, alloys, r/sl	9T	£27,995
95M	E220T Auto rls, esr, ew, r/st	33T	£25,995
95M	E320 Auto met, hide, r/sl	29T	£29,995
97P	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, r/sl	5T	£41,995
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97P	S320 Auto met, hide, acc, efs, 8 holes, r/sl	1T	£49,995
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96N	C220 Elegance Auto Green blk, hide, a/c, eds	17T	£26,995
96P	C280 Elegance Auto Azurite, hide, 8 holes, a/c	12T	£29,995
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93K	200TE Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth, esr	60T	£17,995
94M	E200 Auto Imperial red, grey, esr, elw	29T	£18,995
95N	E200 SE Auto Blue black, grey cloth	11T	£20,995
96P	E200 Elegance Auto Ruby, grey cloth, 8 holes	6T	£29,995
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96P	C200 Sport Auto Silver, black cloth, esr	9T	£23,995
97P	C200 Sport Estate Vivranite, far, ew, cd	9T	£27,495
95N	C220 Sport Auto Ruby, esr, far	17T	£23,995
96P	C220D Classic Auto Silver, black cloth	5T	£24,995
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95N	E200 Avantgarde Azurite, hide, alm, hlww	17T	£27,995
96N	E200 Elegance Auto Smoke, black cloth, esr	7T	£28,995
96P	E230 Elegance Auto Azurite cloth, air, music	10T	£30,995
96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Green blk, grey cloth	11T	£34,995
96P	E230 Estate Eleg Auto Silver, black cloth, air	7T	£34,995
94M	E220 Cab Silver, black hide, 8h, hls, cd	16T	£37,995
95M	E220 Cab Blue black, black hide, hls, 8h	18T	£38,995
96P	E220 Cab Tourmaline, mush hide, a/c, hls	5T	£42,995
97P	E220 Cab Azurite, Mush Hide, spt line, hls	3T	£42,995
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96N	E320 Eleg Green black, hide, a/c, hww	11T	£37,995
93K	300SL 24V Silver, hide, air, rcs, efs, 8h	39T	£46,995
96P	SL280 Silver, black hide, rcs, hlww, music	8T	£58,995
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94M	E220 Auto met, lca, walnut	38T	£19,995
94L	E220 Coupe met, spls, cloth, air, cd	49T	£23,995
94M	E220 Estate Auto met, esr, rls, r/sl	19T	£25,995
96P	E220 Cabriolet met, hide, hls	5T	£40,995
96P	E230 Elegance Estate met, auto air con	12T	£32,995
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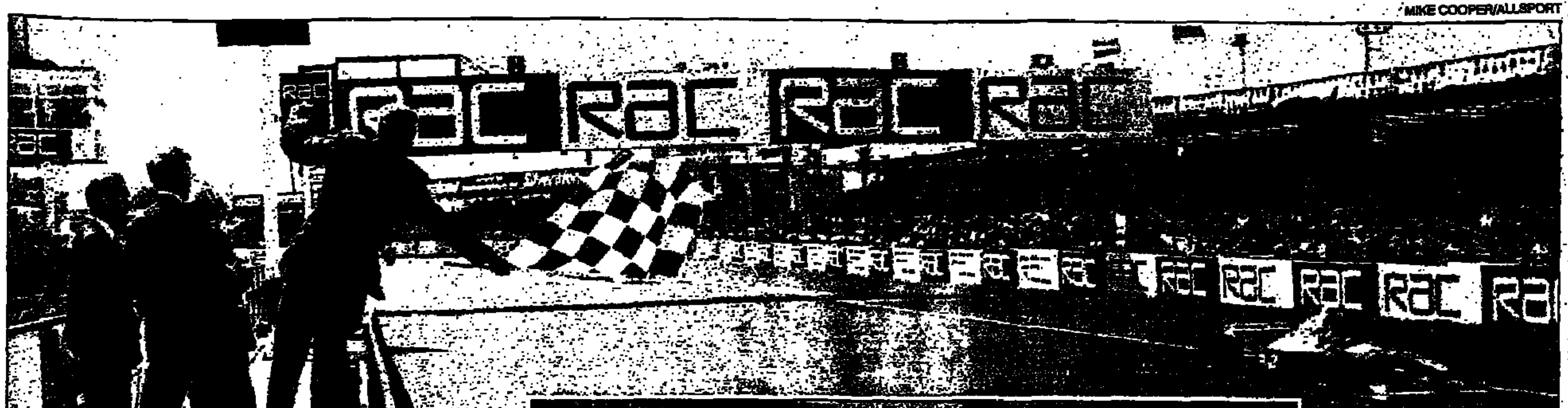

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A marque that has led for 90 years

First, second and third at Silverstone on Saturday, five World Championships, two British world champions, more than 85 race wins and for nine years the power behind the Williams team.

Yet how many enthusiasts, minutely conversant with every Villeneuve or Alesi lap time, realise that Renault's grand prix heritage dates back more than 90 years? On the weekend of June 26 1906 held over two days on a 64-mile circuit just outside Le Mans, the first grand prix race ever run was won by a 13-litre, four-cylinder Renault AK.

By any standards it was an historic win, but for Renault it was merely another in a string of victories and part of Louis Renault's determination to put his pioneering designs before the public. The great thing at the time was not circuit racing but long-distance town-to-town events. Louis won his first of these in 1899, piloting a single-cylinder car from Paris to Ostend, a feat he repeated the following year along with Paris-Bordeaux, Paris-Toulouse and Paris-Berlin. But it was in 1902 that the company really made its mark when his brother Marcel took the company's new 3.4-litre Model K to first place in the celebrated Paris-Vienna marathon, beating 136 other competitors and arriving at the finishing line so far ahead of the field that race officials were not even there to receive him.

Louis himself came in only 28th, but it mattered little as his brother's win was more than enough to propel the company to the first rank of manufacturers, establishing the configuration of the Model K as the new ideal for a "light car". Production of a touring version, dubbed the NA and in effect a smaller-engined version of the racer, started almost immediately.

How many found their way to this country is impossible to establish, but we tracked down Britain's only survivor to the Herts/Essex border, the home of its owner and restorer George Dorrington.

Past glories: George Dorrington and his Renault NA, one of only three left in the world

Having studied engineering at Bristol University, and served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War, George is now retired from his family's bakery business. His joy is a workshop and barn full of veteran and Edwardian cars, among them the extremely rare Renault NA.

He bought his first Renault, a 1913 "Doctor's Coupé", about 35 years ago and still uses it regularly, most recently driving more than 700 miles to the Loire Valley and back. But it is the NA which has pride of place, and not just because of its historical connections. It is one of only four NAs still known to exist, three if you discount an incomplete one in Australia.

George acquired his, or rather most of it, in the late 1960s when it was evident that there was a lot missing, including the chassis, front axle and steering gear and Renault's distinctive radiators.

Incredibly, five years later most of the missing components turned up on a farm in Normandy. Better still, once George had shipped them home and cleaned them up, he discovered that the engine and chassis numbers matched up, proving they had come from the same car.

There was still no sign of the missing radiators, however, so George made his own, fabricating more than 3,200 little cooling fins and cropping nearly 13,000 corners before they could be soldered on. That was in 1977, at which time George helped organise a commemorative run to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Renault's great victory, deciding to rebody his own car for the event as an exact replica of Marcel Renault's right down to the race number: 147.

George admits having to drill more than 6,000 holes in the seatbacks was "a bit of a bore", but that is how Marcel liked it, and anyway, after the radiators, building a replica body was comparatively simple. Once completed it joined 20 other venerable Renaults leaving Paris to tackle the approximately 1,000-mile route across Europe. For Renault it was a double celebration as the event also marked the 75th anniversary of their activities in Britain.

George admits that having to drill more than 6,000 holes in the seatbacks was 'a bit of a bore'

Two decades on, the four-cylinder 2.6-litre side-valve engine is still going strong. Developing 14 horsepower at a leisurely 1,200rpm with drip-feed lubrication, a leather-lined clutch, an extremely tricky quadrant gearchange and hand-operated brakes acting only on the rear wheels, the NA is clearly not for the fainthearted. But in the right hands, says George, it is good for 50mph and will do it all day without complaining.

And he should know. George reckons he has already done more than 35,000 miles in the old lady, taking part in every Brighton run since 1977, letting Nigel Mansell have a go around Brooklands a few years back, and driving to numerous events and rallies in the UK, Ireland, France, Andorra, Corsica and Sardinia. Already George is planning how to celebrate the Renault company centenary next year.

STEERING COLUMN

Finding the winners by a long stalk

If you want to know about snails and speed, ask Neil Riseborough. Come the weekend, Neil trades a Valmet 8100 tractor for the comforts of a Renault Savannah, taking to the road as managing director of Snails on Tour, *Simon Hacker writes.*

Neil is Britain's only official snail trainer. Snails selected from his farm near King's Lynn are carefully observed for their potential to get up and go. The spriteliest qualify to join the 1997 tour programme. The least sluggish have been limbering up in preparation for the World Snail Racing Championships in Congham, Norfolk today, the high point of Britain's snail racing calendar.

"The shell should be aerodynamic, like a decent sports car," he says. "The shallower the swirl, the quicker it'll go. The length of eye stalks is also important: in a photo-finish, the longer-stalked snail will be the winner."

The drama builds up, but the race can be over in mere hours. Rogue private entries have been highly successful: the 0-60 millimetres per hour record was smashed in 1995 by Archie, who covered 13ins in a feverish 120 seconds, powering his way into the *Guinness Book of Records.*

What's your first driving memory?

Probably on my dad's lap, on a tractor, although I remember first holding the wheel of a Moggie 1000 pick-up.

What was your first car?

A two-tone green and cream Triumph Herald, bought for £15 with no MoT.

What car do you drive now and why?

A 1.7-litre petrol Renault Savannah, a seven-seater. With the demands of three children and the 1997 tour programme, we needed something a little different. A people carrier was too pricey and this was next best. When you're buying a snail-friendly car you have to think about ventilation, circulation and humidity — climate control is very important because air changes can dramatically impair a snail's performance.

Do you enjoy driving?

The longer I'm married, the harder it gets. Norfolk is a great county for driving though — the volume of traffic is so much less here.

What is your dream car?

A Chrysler Voyager. We drove one on holiday in Canada last year and thought it was brilliant.

Which is your most hated car?

The Ford Ka. Some people expected me to like it because it looks like a snail, but to me it looks more like a cosmic beetle.

Neil Riseborough reflects on one of his contenders

Championship chance

The Superbike World Championship visits Britain for the second time this year when the European round is run at Brands Hatch in Kent on August 3. Thanks to Brands Hatch and Team Suzuki, whose riders include British hope James Whitham, one lucky reader of *Car 97* has a chance to win a pair of tickets, visit the pits and talk to the team.

All you have to do is say which team Championship leader Carl Fogarty rides for. Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Superbike Competition, Car 97, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winning card will be drawn from all correct entries. Closing date July 24. Winner will be notified by telephone. Usual competition rules apply.

The Superbike series is based on roadbikes and last year 57,000 turned out to watch the racing. The crowd this year is expected to be bigger and to provide vocal support to top home riders: Carl Fogarty, Neil Hodgson, his Ducati team-mate and Suzuki's Whitham. And our reader offer for VIP viewing is still open. See below.

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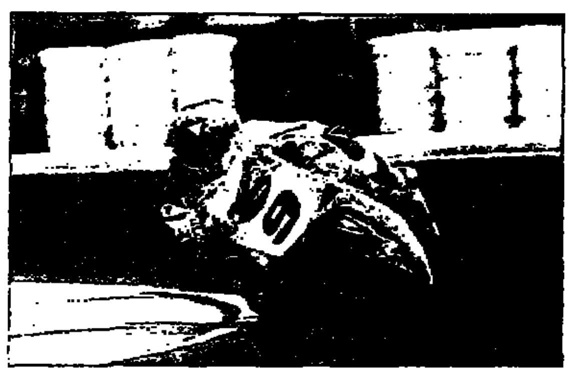
1997 World Superbike at Brands Hatch



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French, classy, stylish and very fast

From the banks of the Loire, the hand-built Venturi is back in Britain. **Ian Morton** is impressed

With £60,000 to spend where does the discerning customer turn? Porsche, Jaguar, Mercedes, Lotus? Pre-owned Bentley, Aston or Ferrari? Heavy end of Audi or BMW? Or Venturi?

Hand-built on the banks of the Loire near Nantes, Venturi made a brief but unsustained gesture at the UK supercar market a few years ago. In informed circles, the marque is known for gritty competition in Europe, including six finishes in eight Le Mans outings. Now owned by a Thai motor group called Nakarin-Benz, run by ex-Lotus MD Mike Bishop and imported by Kensington-based Aston specialist Nicholas Mee, it is backed with serious intent.

And why not? The lure of the new and exotic was ever a feature of the up-market motoring fringe, and the Venturi Atlantique 300 offers the two basic requisites — powerful, stareworthy styling and stirring performance. Capable of 174mph, it is the fastest production car made in France today. Better still, it is logical.

Those lines and curves are elegantly drawn yet compactly athletic, the wide frontal grille and driving lights are particularly fetching, the cabin acknowledges no current fad and nothing is going to look dated in a hurry. The composite body clothes a stout steel chassis, and all the visible inner parts look as carefully finished as the skin. The turbocharged engine, sited amidships, is a development of the brawny and well-seasoned 3-litre Renault V6 and drives a proven transmission.

Driving cold into London traffic in an expensive, unknown car can remain a slightly daunting experience even after 30 years of testing, but I cannot recall one more instantly friendly than this. The control area, reminiscent of Lotus but more integrated, mounts smallish individual instruments in a burr-walnut setting.

ATLANTIQUE

Engine: V6 2975cc alloy with turbocharger giving 281bhp at 5,300rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual.
Performance: 0-60 mph in 5.5 seconds, maximum 174 mph.
Economy: Urban TBA, 29.7mpg at 56mph, 21.7mpg at 75mph.
Equipment: Burr-walnut and leather trim.
Price: £59,579.

Bridge of Weir leather trim completes a welcoming club environment, the seats are well shaped and comfortable, and for a squat two-seater there is a lot of space. While casual stowage is confined to four small lidded boxes, there is space for long-weekend luggage under the bonnet and behind the engine.

The engine growls affably, the steering is nicely weighted, the turning circle is tight and the only thing which militates against ease is the height at which you drive — the roof is 3ft 10in above the road and you have a handspan of headroom below that.

While the full 281hp is not delivered until 5,300rpm, the turbocharger comes in a warble and a whirr at about 2,700rpm, and in a car weighing less than 25cwt that can mean only one thing - a rush of incremental impetus that leaves all but the fiercest opposition blinking.

But while this is a blatant opportunist of a car, it is also a gorgeous cruiser, settling into arrow-straight stability, mechanical noises such as they are (at 70mph in fifth, the engine is only doing 2,500rpm) lost in the reassuring rumble of broad low-profile Michelins. The faster the Venturi runs, the smoother it rides.

Mee rates it a natural alternative for customers sated on Porsches and intends a modest 25 a year, so rarity should be a no-charge extra. Buyers will be welcome at Nantes and Mee intends to be at the Earl's Court Motor Show. He wants to see Venturi in the "pyramid of icons" to which small boys of all ages aspire. Initial experience suggests it is well worthy of a place.

Venturi Atlantique 300: those lines and curves are elegantly drawn yet compactly athletic and the car is instantly friendly

The cabin acknowledges no current fad and nothing is going to look dated in a hurry. Bridge of Weir leather trim completes a welcoming club environment, seats are well shaped and comfortable, and for a squat two-seater there is a lot of space

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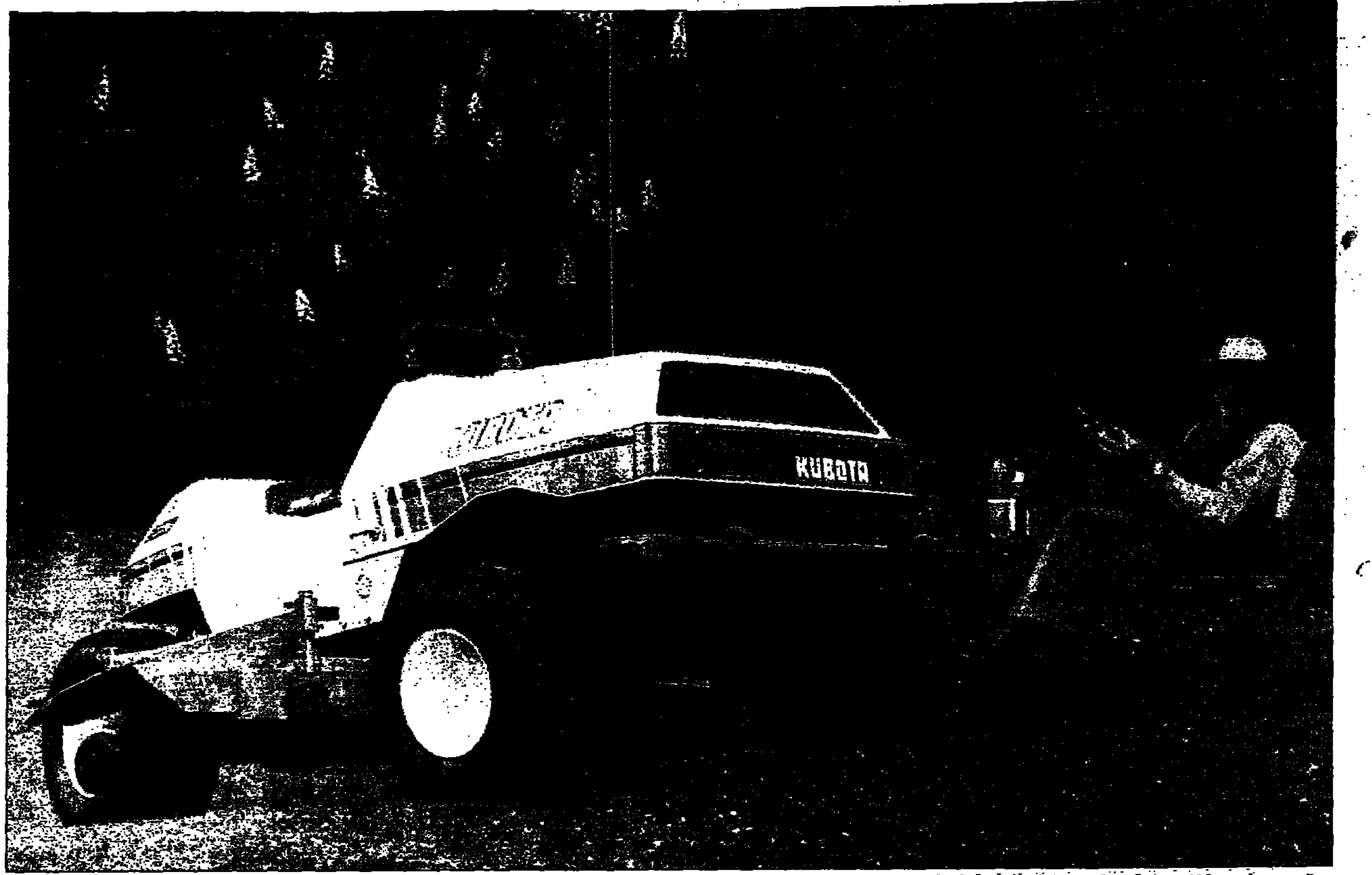
One man went to mow . . . **Stuart Birch** relaxes with a radio as a Japanese tractor takes the strain out of gardening

Sit down, tune in and cut the grass


PETER TRIEVNOR

Stuart Birch sends the PX-2100 off to work: "Within minutes I was stretching out lazily in my chair watching the Kub scything a 5ft wide swathe of grass 100 yards away"

It's time to mow the grass. So relax in your garden chair, pour a gin and tonic and tune the radio to the Test match. For close by is the Kub, just awaiting orders to transform an embryo hayfield into a green crewcut.

This radio-controlled horticultural wonder, the PX-2100 mower, is made by the Japanese company Kubota. With four-wheel drive, four-wheel steer, a 927cc diesel engine and drive-by-wire technology, it cuts a dash in any garden. All you do is operate a couple of little joysticks on a radio controller which look after acceleration, braking, steering and forward and reverse functions. And that — more or less — is that.

The Kub's control centre

Kubota's UK marketing manager, Stuart Ellis, gave me some dual instruction before I made my first solo, the Kub accelerating to 5mph in four seconds. Would it end up in the pond? Up a tree? In the road? In fact, it was all very simple and within minutes I was stretching out lazily in my chair watching the Kub scything a 5ft wide swathe of grass 100 yards away.

The PX-2100 is a king among the garden tractor set and at £18,000 including VAT, so it should be. Said Ellis: "We sell them mainly to water companies which need to cut grass on steep slopes and don't want to risk an operator on a regular tractor. It will climb a 35 degree slope, but it is fine for domestic use too. Like other garden tractors, it does not give the sort of immaculate finish that a cylinder mower with roller will provide, but for people with large grass areas it will cope very well."

In Britain the market for ride-ons and garden tractors (a ride-on has a rear engine, a tractor a front engine) has soared in the past 10 years. As well as the exotic PX-2100, Kubota produces a wide range and there are many other makes from which to choose, starting at around £1,000.

Philip Knott, general manager of Mokut of Spellbrook, Hertfordshire, says that ride-ons are generally fine for up to an acre. After that potential customers really should look at tractors, which have a wider cutter deck and more power.

Buying a tractor is a little like buying a car. So test drive it before deciding. Check on manoeuvrability and turning circle. On some models a grass sweeper or collector adds considerably to the length. Ensure that the steering is not heavy, the gearbox is light and easy to use, the brake pedal well positioned and the seat supportive. Raising and lowering the cutter deck should be simple and not call for much muscle power.

Most tractors are petrol powered, although Kubota's range are all diesel except for one petrol model. Like cars, ride-ons and garden tractors depreciate the moment they are used. Typically, after two years value has dropped by two-thirds, although a diesel Kubota should be worth more. Cheaper ones tend to be traded in after two or three years and often are not thoroughly serviced. Bigger tractors are generally looked after more carefully and kept longer. They should last for at least 10 years. But beware service costs: "They are usually more than a car," warns Knott.

I have an American V-twin Snapper with 16HP engine and hydrostatic drive. It will cut a paddock, pull a small harrow, roller or trailer and is wonderful entertainment for young children: tractor rides in a mucky trailer — with a sharp eye to safety — are *de rigueur* up to the age of five.

But its winter service costs £172. Typically, a tractor service is between £100 and £140 including new cutter blades and belts, says Knott. The cost also covers collection, delivery and steam cleaning: "Air-cooled garden tractors get very dusty and need thorough cleaning. The fuel tank is normally emptied and cleaned too, because debris and grass may get in when refuelling."

So that chugging little grass-slicing tractor can be expensive. But it can be good fun to use — even without radio control. Driving my Snapper with Walkman earphones in place and ear defenders clamped over the top to keep tractor noises at bay (they must meet EU noise and safety legislation), is a pleasant way to spend a few hours on a sunny afternoon. I can pretend I'm a man of the soil.

Or I could until Roy Wilkinson, my farmer neighbour who is into serious tractors, spotted me. From the eyrie of his cab across the fence came a shouted question and a friendly wave: "What do you do when you've finished playing — trundle it under the bed with the other toys?"

I just tapped the ear defenders and said I couldn't hear.

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